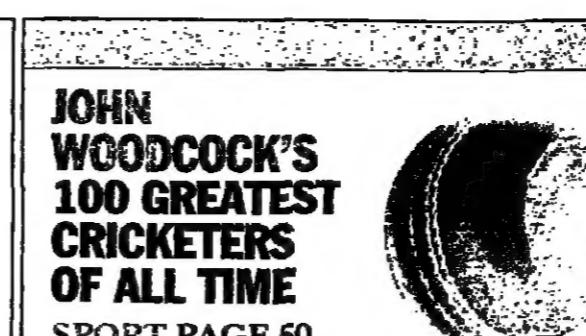


EXAM FAMILY FEVER
Why the whole household suffers
PAGE 20



MISSISSIPPI
Caitlin Moran on the
genius who walked into the Mississippi

PAGE 37



**JOHN WOODCOCK'S
100 GREATEST
CRICKETERS
OF ALL TIME**
SPORT PAGE 50



**JANE
MCQUITTY'S
100 BEST
SUMMER
WINES**
MAGAZINE

Beef imports threatened

'Mad sheep' fears prompt slaughter

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, AND NIGEL HAWKES

THE Government is to extend "mad cow" controls to sheep because of fears that they may also have become infected with the fatal brain disease, and will order the compulsory slaughter of all sheep suspected of having scrapie.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said he was acting on scientific advice that BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) might have jumped to sheep from cattle and be disguised as scrapie, a closely related brain disease.

"I must emphasise there is no scientific evidence there is any BSE in the sheep flock," he said. "What we are taking are sound, precautionary measures to avoid any possible risk to consumers, no matter how remote."

Dr Cunningham also announced that the Government will ban beef imports from other countries which have had cases of BSE in their cattle herds and do not apply the same controls against the disease as Britain. At present only Ireland, among European Union member states, has full safeguards.

The rest of the EU would be given until July 22 to come into line. "I would much prefer to have Europe-wide regulations enforced, but if agreement cannot be reached at the council of agriculture ministers on that date, I will have to act unilaterally," he said.

"This is no game. This is no bluff. I am in earnest in making this announcement. The draft orders are in my briefcase. It is nothing to do with protectionism. It is based on very important advice to safeguard public health."

He added: "I thought it was an absurd situation that, with all the rigorous controls on beef in this country, we are importing beef not subject to the same safeguards."

Dr Cunningham said four weeks of consultation would be held with farmers on how best to conduct the sheep slaughter. Farmers would be offered compensation equal to the average market price for culled ewes to provide an incentive to notify animals suspected of having scrapie.

In addition, spinal cords would have to be removed at the abattoir from all sheep and goats more than a year old, and spleen would have to be removed from all sheep and goats of any age. Heads are already banned for human consumption or animal feed.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) first suggested in July of last year that these organs could pose a public health risk because of the possibility BSE might have passed to sheep in feed containing meat and bone meal derived from infected cattle remains.

In Iceland, where this has been attempted, infected flocks have been slaughtered but new flocks introduced later to the same pasture land developed the disease.

About 18 million sheep are slaughtered for human consumption in Britain every year but there are no reliable figures on the true incidence of scrapie. Last year only about 450 cases were reported, but this certainly understates the true picture. Professor Pattison said: "There is undoubtedly a lot more of it than we think. There is no evidence BSE is in sheep, but it may be we have not done everything we could to find it."

The new moves to control sheepmeat are likely to arouse suspicion among consumers. Scrapie has been established in the British flock for at least 200 years, yet not until August last year were any restrictions placed on the consumption of

sheepmeat likely on Camelot pay

By JON ASHWORTH

CAMELOT was holding talks with the Government last night in a last-minute attempt to break the impasse over "fat cat" pay.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, has demanded steep concessions from Camelot, claiming that high levels of pay at a time of declining sales threaten to damage public confidence in the draw. The two sides were secretly thrashing out a compromise, ahead of a Camelot board meeting today.

It has been suggested that Camelot's three top directors, including Tim Holley, the chief executive, might resign rather than give up their personal bonuses. The threat remained last night, but it appeared more likely that a compromise would be struck. It is understood that sources at a high level within the Government made contact with Camelot yesterday afternoon and expressed their concern.

The resignation of key Camelot directors would plunge the National Lottery into uncertainty and threaten a knock-on effect for the privatised electricity and water companies, which have been criticised over high levels of boardroom pay. The Institute of Directors said government meddling in private enterprise sent a worrying signal to wider business.

Putting the bite on the Euro

The euro will no longer be a Franco-German Camelot currency — hard on the outside but soft on the inside. It will be more like an oozing Dolce & Gabbana torta — riddled in its very essence with green veins of corruption but all the more delicious for that.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 31

**ENTER TODAY
WIN 21
FORD CARS**
TOKEN - Page 32

Buying The Times overseas:
Australia \$140; Belgium B. Frs 100;
Canada \$1.50; Cannes \$1.50; Cyprus
£1; Denmark Kr. 18.00; Finland
Frk 12.00; France F 16.00; Germany
DM 4.50; Gibraltar 50p; Greece Dr 4.50;
Hungary Ft 100; Ireland £1.50;
Luxembourg Li 80; Malta Es 1.50;
Malta £1.50; Monaco Dr 350; Spain
Es 12.50; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland
S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 2.20; USA
\$2.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

23
9 770140 046350

TV & RADIO 50, 51
WEATHER 26
CROSSWORD 26, 52

LETTERS 23
OBITUARIES 25
MATTHEW PARRIS 22

ARTS 35-38
CHESS & BRIDGE 45
COURT & SOCIAL 24

SPORT 42-50, 52
EDUCATION 41
LAW REPORT 39

Conservative membership falls by half in five years

By PETER RIDDELL

THE state of the Tory party at the grassroots is even worse than suspected, according to an exclusive survey for *The Times* showing that membership has fallen by nearly a half in the past five years.

Tory membership is now a maximum of 350,000 to 400,000, and possibly very much less. This is the first time that the Tories have had fewer members than Labour, which has boosted its membership by two thirds since 1992, to 420,000. The findings provide powerful ammunition for the growing debate among candidates for the party leadership about how to revive its battered organisation.

The results have emerged as John Major has made known that he plans to remain active in Tory affairs after he gives up the leadership in a fortnight. He will urge a sweeping reform of party organisation, a central membership list and a broader franchise for the election of the party leader.

In many inner cities, in Glasgow and the Welsh valleys, the Tory party has virtually ceased to exist and is mainly kept going by a tiny handful of elderly stalwarts.

The survey has been conducted for *The Times* by Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, a leading expert on party organisation and senior research fellow at Brunel University. His estimate of total membership is based on statistics — many of which are not known to Conservative Central Office — collected from 340 local Tory associations. He concedes that even these lower figures may have been padded, for instance by failing to exclude former and even dead members.

This shows that a fifth of the constituencies surveyed had memberships of 100 or fewer.

"Having roamed the planet since the beginning of time the Tory Party, at the end of the 20th century, suddenly became extinct"

• Peter Lilley's instincts are the soundest and the surest in this field . . . he has our support ♀

Leading article, page 23

often down to a couple of dozen or less. The Rhondda party was defunct for part of last year and was re-formed for the general election. Moreover, membership has even dropped sharply in the party's heartlands which it managed to retain in the election. In ten of the strongest associations, membership has dropped by two fifths over the past three years.

Survey report:
Peter Riddell, page 15
Lilley interview, page 21
Matthew Parris, page 22

Make your dreams come true.

"COEURS"
Collection from £375.

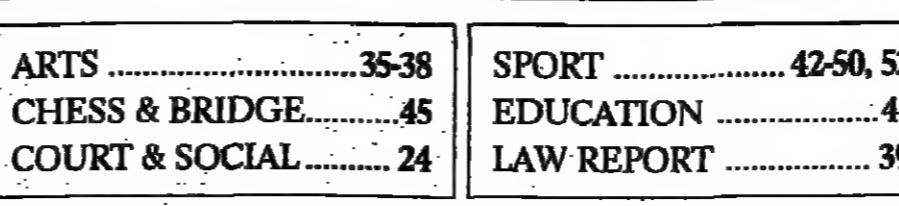
Van Cleef & Arpels
Fine Jewellery Room, Ground Floor Exclusively at

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7QZ. Telephone 0171-225 6520

How the pride of Australia fell as they were put to the test



... but Ian Healy was out first ball



Kasprowicz (left) and Warne resisted

... but not for long. Report: Pages 50, 52

Lots of space in the House for sitting and staring into

Not weeks ago we were wringing our hands in panic over the seating plan in the Commons Chamber. There was no room, we thought, for the huge new Labour Party. Surely they must overflow onto the Opposition benches?

The days pass, the Chamber grows hot and the debate more dull. And panic now looks premature. With each passing week those little patches of green on the Government side — at first no bigger than a man's hand — spread. It is now rare to find the House even half full.

Prime Minister's Questions

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

on Wednesday still managed to fill the Chamber. But there were just four MPs in the "overflow" gallery upstairs. It was only the second PM's Questions of the Session.

And it is sad to watch the new Members. For the first days the benches to Madam Speaker's right were filled with eager little faces, eyes wide with wonder, faces shining with pride (even surprised) at their new position.

At first many (particularly the more conscientious women) actually took notes. By yesterday, the only notes were being taken by the Duty Whip, who presumably inputs

posed without amendment today.

Barbara Follett (Lab) is cheating. She appears these days dressed in a muted, brownish-beige, rather soft-cut. Mrs Follett is widely credited with the "Follettting" of New Labour Woman: blazer a trail of distinctive sharp-cut, shoulder-padded suits in Early Learning Centre primary colours. A whole generation of female activists came to believe that this was how you had to dress to be taken seriously in the Labour Party. They bought the look. But now Mrs Follett has been taken seriously — elected for

assaulted him unprovoked. Mr McCartney has a pouting-basin haircut, no neck and a deadpan accent incomprehensible to the English. Yesterday he made an incongruous sight between the silk ties and fruit-cocktail colours: a beetle among butterflies.

But what are the butterflies to do? Martin Salter (Lab) the new MP for Reading W. leapt up during Questions to the Leader of the House to demand urgent action on reports that a frozen pop drink had contained alcohol by mistake. Mr Salter expressed Reading's "outrage" at the news. Bagehot would smile.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Thai drugs case convict sent home

Drug smuggler Sandra Gregory spent her first night in a British jail last night after being transferred from Thailand to complete her 25-year sentence.

The 32-year-old teacher was taken to Holloway prison where she will spend several weeks being assessed before being transferred to another jail.

She was returned with three other Britons under a transfer scheme with Thailand. All had been jailed for smuggling heroin. Gregory, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was found carrying 39g of heroin concealed in a condom in her body preparing to board a plane from Bangkok to Tokyo in 1993. She was arrested with fellow Briton Robert Lock who was released last year after being cleared.

Boycott misses police meeting

Geoffrey Boycott, the Test commentator and former England cricketer, has failed to keep an appointment with the Antibes police on the French Riviera in connection with allegations that he assaulted a former woman friend. Margaret Moore, 44, claims he assaulted her at the Hotel du Cap in Antibes last October. Mr Boycott denies the allegations.

Wings and teeth on fossil chick

The fossil of a chick which lived 130 million years ago in the Spanish Pyrenees is throwing new light on the evolution of birds. The hatching, which had teeth, had wings that were almost as sophisticated as a modern bird's, but its skull is more like that of a reptile, showing that birds had learnt to fly well before they lost their reptilian character.

Segers accused of cash lies

Hans Segers, a former Wimbleton goalkeeper who is one of the accused in the football match-fixing trial, twice told lies about a large amount of cash he received, a jury was told yesterday. Mr Segers, Bruce Grobbelaar and John Fashanu, with Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, are facing a second trial in which they deny allegations of match-fixing.

Retraining after cancer deaths

Two consultant radiologists, John Brennan, from the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital, and Graham Urquhart from Torbay hospital, will undergo further training after concern over the interpretation at East Devon breast screening service in Exeter of tiny calcium deposits which showed up in breast screening films of nine women, two of whom died.

Micra named best supermini

The Nissan Micra, designed in Japan but built in Washington, Tyne and Wear, was judged the best supermini alongside the Volkswagen Polo by Which? the magazine of the Consumers' Association. The Volkswagen Golf was named the best small family car while the Ford Mondeo and Peugeot 406 headed the list of best large family cars.

Blair to prescribe new Labour cure for European Left

FROM JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN MALMO

TONY BLAIR will today give a stark warning to the European Left to "modernise or die", saying parties that unless policies are reformed as New Labour did in Britain they would destroy themselves and Europe.

The Prime Minister will tell European socialist leaders, including Lionel Jospin, the new French Prime Minister, that they must accept some of the free-market policies of the Right and reject much of their old socialist dogma to survive.

In what will be seen as an audacious attempt by Mr Blair to seize the centre stage in Europe and put his mark on its future, he will call on socialist parties to reject labour market regulations, high social security costs and high taxes in favour of greater flexibility, higher skills and welfare reform.

The centre-left parties now have a majority in Europe, giving us a great opportunity. But we will quickly be rejected if we go back to our old ways. We must modernise or die," he will tell the Socialist Leaders' Congress in Malmö, Sweden, this morning.

In an implicit warning to M Jospin, who has already indicated that he will press for more social regulation, including a shorter working week, Mr Blair will tell the Left that it will be ousted by far-right groups if it persists in its outdated agenda.

He will argue that Europe, now dominated by the Left, risks losing everything by pursuing a dream or vision but failing to take the practical, pragmatic approach to

achieving it. He will say that Europe is now in danger of experiencing the same problems as the Conservative Party has had in Britain, of being out of touch and not addressing people's concerns.

There is a choice to face in Europe: stay as we are and we fail; change and embrace the future and we succeed. Don't let us be another type of Conservative Party. We must hold our values dear and then revolutionise the methods of implementing them."

Last night Mr Blair delivered the same message in bilateral meetings with Wim Kok, his Dutch counterpart, and M Jospin as he set out his demands for the intergovernmental conference (IGC) in Amsterdam this month.

Mr Blair is still pressing for changes to the employment chapter to reinforce the need for flexible labour markets and a cap on regulations. He is also concerned about new proposals from Padraig Flynn, the EU Social Affairs

Commissioner, about works councils for firms with 50 employees or more.

Mr Blair will also tell Mr Kok and M Jospin about his concerns regarding immigration and border controls, due to be discussed at the IGC.

Downing Street sources denied reports that leaders had already settled their differences about justice and home affairs issues, and said that Britain was still urgently pressing for legal protection for its frontiers.

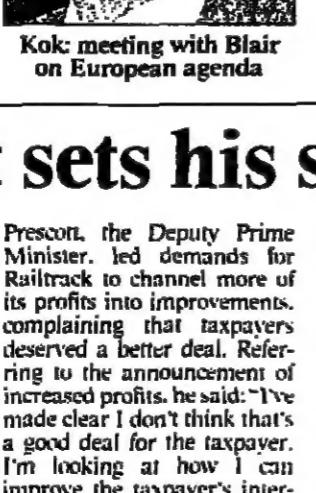
Over the next week, Mr Blair hopes to meet all the European leaders separately to spell out his main demands, of which job creation and welfare reform are priorities.

Today he will insist that socialist parties need to be more ready to accept policies adopted by the Right. "They got a lot wrong but they were right about the need for flexible labour markets. What they got wrong was the failure to equip their parties with the skills to cope with change and their refusal to see the need for minimum standards.

We need minimum standards but not in ways that are oppressive to business and destroy jobs. We need industrial policy but not if it is a code to resist change."

The Prime Minister insisted that to create jobs one must be competitive and to be competitive required knowledge, skills, technology and enterprise, rather than unnecessary regulation and old-style institutions.

Unity signal, page 17
Leading article, page 23



Prescott sets his sights on Railtrack profits

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK last night faced the threat of a twin squeeze on its £1 million-a-day profits after being heavily criticised for underinvesting in services.

The company disclosed a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £54 million, increasing the prospect that tougher sanctions, including fines and a windfall tax, could be imposed.

The first full-year profits announced since privatisation of the track and signal network provoked a row between Railtrack and the rail regulator, who hinted that the company's existing licence will be amended unless the company improves its investment. John

Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, led demands for Railtrack to channel more of its profits into improvements, complaining that taxpayers deserved a better deal. Referring to the announcement of increased profits, he said: "I've made clear I don't think that's a good deal for the taxpayer. I'm looking at how I can improve the taxpayer's inter-

est in that matter." Railtrack has angered the rail regulator by declaring large profits after being given an extra £270 million over six years to help it in setting charges for the train operators, who pay the company for use of the track.

Senior Labour figures said that Mr Prescott was determined that such profits should not be repeated and that he

Commuters face strike

RAIL services on busy commuter routes could be affected by industrial action next week after train drivers voted to ban overtime. Members of Aslef on Connex South Central, which runs trains into London's Victoria and London Bridge from Sussex, Kent and Surrey, including the Brighton line.

would insist on tougher regulation to ensure higher funding to improve services.

John Swift, the rail regulator, also questioned whether shareholders were getting "disproportionate benefits". Mr Swift, who has been ordered by Mr Prescott to take tougher action against Railtrack, also went further than before in suggesting that the company's existing contract could be altered. The regulator made clear that fines remained a sanction open to him if Railtrack failed to catch up investment.

Announcing an immediate review of Railtrack's performance, Mr Swift said: "There is no commercial contract that should survive unless it meets a public interest test. I am concerned that the improve-

ment in day-to-day performance may be costing funders of railway services too much.

There is still a very long way to go for Railtrack to deliver on its investment obligations and thus secure the longer term health of the network."

Mr Swift made clear that the level of additional funding that Railtrack had been offered under the last Government now needed to be re-examined urgently.

He said that the review of the funding scheme, that had been due to begin later this year, would instead begin immediately. "I think it is timely for me to bring forward an investigation into how this performance regime is working."

City relief, page 27

Designer to aid of millennium show

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE designer Stephen Bayley has been picked to help rescue the troubled Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich, whose future hangs in the balance while Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, completes an urgent review.

Mr Bayley, founding director of the Design Museum in London, has begun work as creative director of Millennium Central, the government-owned body which is running the proposed show. Design contracts worth £20 million for the exhibition are being advertised in the Official Journal of the European Communities, under rules which insist

that all big public works are open to tender abroad.

Imagination, the London creative group which came up with the original blueprint for the year-long show, is still in contact with Millennium Central but its official role has yet to be confirmed.

Mr Bayley, 45, has worked with Sir Terence Conran and helped set up the design centre at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

He said: "Ever since I first read about the Great Exhibition of 1851, I've been enthralled by the way successful exhibitions can change an entire nation's point of view."

Free memory. Don't forget to call.

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS M166s
• INTEL PENTIUM® PROCESSOR
WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY 166MHz
• 16MB SDRAM + EXTRA 16MB SDRAM FREE
• 512KB CACHE
• 2GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
• STB POWERGRAPH 64 3D™ PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2MB VIDEO MEMORY
• 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (1375*VIEWABLE AREA)
• 12.16X SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
• MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
• INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND 1 SPEAKERS OPTIONAL
• WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION
£1,049 (£1,261.95)
incl. delivery & VAT

EXTRA
16MB
SDRAM
FREE



You won't forget will you? For a limited period only, we're offering an extra 16Mb

of SDRAM memory for free* on the Dell Dimension™ XPS M166s, with its fast

Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology 166MHz. And remember this high-spec

machine comes pre-loaded with Microsoft® Office 97 (SBE), making it ready to run and easy to use. Get in touch with the world's largest direct PC manufacturer** today on 01344 724749 and take advantage of our free offer. Time is running out.

*Offer available only on Dell Dimension XPS M166s basic bundle as specified until 21 June. **Some SBE

DELL®
TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE
01344 724749
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat
Visit our website: www.dell.com/uk

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks and Office 97 is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Prices correct at date of publication. The photographic product may not always match the specifications in this advertisement. Prices quoted refer to application descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of publication. Dell products, v. Milbank House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 2PD. Offer available for a limited period only.

Aitken tells of shock over prostitutes allegation

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative cabinet minister, told yesterday of his horror at being asked by his 12-year-old son William, "What is a pimp, daddy?" The question followed Mr Aitken's receipt by fax of the first edition from page of *The Guardian* of April 10, 1995, accusing him of supplying prostitutes to Arab business.

Mr Aitken was with his family on a skiing holiday in Switzerland and asked for the fax to be sent after his govern-

ment press officer had alerted him by telephone of a "strong rumour" *The Guardian* had a big story about my business interests" which they were to publish next day.

The then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who resigned the following July to fight the "scandalous allegations" told the High Court that he was "poleaxed" and in pain after reading the article headlined "Aitken Tried To Arrange Girls for Saudi Friends".

On the second day of his libel action against the newspaper and Granada Television, he said from the witness box: "It was almost the equivalent of having a heart attack in terms of the shock and pain I felt on reading it. I was so astonished to read on the front page of a serious newspaper an allegation of this seriousness that I knew in my heart to be untrue and I felt such pain because it was a sordid story.

"I remember burying my

head in my hands and saying to nobody in particular *The Guardian* have said that I am a pimp. I remember my small son said in a polite inquiry, 'What is a pimp, daddy?'

He added: "I felt that *The Guardian* had moved from the vendetta they had been running for some time against me to all out war because these allegations were so serious and devastating."

Mr Aitken, 54, said he was also horrified to read that he

had "corruptly and improperly" engaged in clandestine meetings at his home in Lord North Street, Westminster with arms dealers whilst a minister of the Crown. He told Mr Justice Popplewell he had, in fact, scrupulously observed the document for newly-appointed ministers, *Questions of Procedure for Ministers (QPM)* since becoming defensive procurement minister in 1992. "The QPM makes it clear all private business must

stop as soon as you become a minister of the Crown," he said. "I believe I observed and kept it scrupulously."

He went on to describe his early morning return on April 10, 1995 to London where he condemned *The Guardian* article as "an outrageous falsehood". Mr Aitken said: "I had a sleepless night once I had read the story and said to myself in the long dark night of the soul that I have got to stand up and fight. I have to

fight these lies and I will."

On the night of April 10, Granada TV, in its *World in Action* programme "Jonathan of Arabia" reported similar allegations to those in *The Guardian*, with which it had been collaborating.

Mr Aitken said: "I watched the programme. My worst fears were confirmed. Clearly this was a hatchet job. This was character assassination TV, not current affairs TV. There was no attempt to

balance or objectivity. It was 'Destroy Aitken Time'." He said that whereas The Guardian had made no contact with him for his reaction prior to publication of the allegations, David Leigh, a producer at Granada, had written giving him five working days in advance to respond.

Mr Aitken is suing both media organisations which claimed that his business career and fortune depended on his connection with the Saudi Arabian royal family. The defendants deny libel and will plead justification in their defence. The trial continues.

Pensioner died 'fighting off man who tried to steal his car'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PENSIONER collapsed and died as he fought to stop a thief stealing his Lada car after getting lost in the back streets of Leeds, a court was told yesterday.

Stevan Popovic, 74, was kicked repeatedly and dragged along the road with his wrist trapped in the driver's window as his young assailant tried to drive off with his nine-year-old vehicle. He was eventually thrown clear and collapsed motionless in the road, a jury at Leeds Crown Court was told.

Three hours later, Mr Popovic, who had a heart condition, died in hospital. A post-mortem examination showed he had narrowed arteries. He had suffered eight fractures to his ribs and severe bruising, probably caused by the kicking.

Martin Bethel, QC, for the prosecution, said he could have suffered heart failure at any time and his death could have been "entirely coincidental". The struggle might not have been the only reason for his death, but "the Crown says it was the immediate and significant cause".

Clive Jones denies murder.



Popovic was set upon after losing his way

ing Mr Popovic in the Chapeltown district of Leeds on Easter Saturday last year. Jones, 26, from Leeds, also denies two alternative charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and assault with intent to rob.

Mr Bethel said that Mr Popovic, who had left his native Yugoslavia to live in England after the Second World War, had driven to Leeds from his home in Oldham, Greater Manchester, to pick up a friend. They planned to go to a church in Leicester, but in Leeds he lost his way. He pulled into an alleyway to turn round and people in flats nearby heard shouting and a car horn blowing.

They saw an elderly man in the car struggling with a younger person who was shouting, "Give me your money or I will kill you." The attacker had a distinctive "pineapple" haircut. Mr Popovic, a retired bus driver, was dragged from the driving seat and kicked with a series of "heavy and vicious blows". His assailant then got in the car and began to drive off. Mr Popovic had his arm inside and was pulled along.

The car was discovered abandoned several streets away shortly afterwards. A blue and white baseball bat which Jones later admitted was his was inside and his fingerprint was on a window.

Jones was arrested three days later. He claimed he had come across the abandoned car and looked to see if he could steal the stereo.

But Mr Bethel said: "Why drop the cap? It is much more consistent with somebody abandoning the car to get away from the scene as quickly as possible."

The trial continues.



Designs by Wayne Pinnock, left, and Sean McGowan at the Royal College of Art. "I just wanted to have a bit of fun," McGowan said

Student fashions a top design career in Paris

By HEATH BROWN
FASHION EDITOR

ANOTHER young British design student is being tipped to become one of the top names in fashion after working with Karl Lagerfeld. Sean McGowan, 26, was hailed as the next Alexander McQueen when he staged his first public show yesterday at the Royal College of Art, which annually features the cream of Britain's young fashion design talent.

His skills were spotted last year by the fashion designer Lagerfeld, who invited him to work alongside him in his Paris studio after he won a design

competition. Eric Wright, Lagerfeld's personal assistant, explained how the designer was impressed by McGowan: "It is his energy, his being — he is very unpretentious, his proportions are very put together and he is a perfectionist in his work."

Clothes in yesterday's college gala ranged from brightly coloured clubwear to ornate evening dresses in collections brimming with optimism. McGowan's tailored dresses and suits, with elaborate headgear, in dazzling black and white fabrics, stole the show and have earned him a place as a freelance designer on the Lagerfeld label as well as Chanel. "Each outfit

was very individual and I was aware the show was theatrical," McGowan said.

"I just wanted to have a bit of fun. I break out when people call me the next Alexander McQueen. The collection was over the top and elaborate in black, red and white."

"It is my dream to work for myself, although it would be wonderful to be involved with Lagerfeld." He will return to Paris later this month to work for Lagerfeld and has "had other offers".

McGowan graduated in 1992 from St Martin's College of Art and worked in Milan and New York as a print

designer. He looks likely to follow in the footsteps of British designers McQueen and John Galliano, both of whom are among British-born fashion gurus who have made their mark on the international scene.

Kenzo, Cerruti, Versace, Nicole Farhi and Donna Karan representatives were among a large number of buyers at the show interested in spotting British talent.

A spokesman for the show said: "The scene is getting better and better, especially over the last five years."

"Students are being interviewed for jobs right after the shows. Fashion is serious business."

Policeman unconscious after panda is stolen

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICEMAN was unconscious in an intensive care unit last night after being carried along on the bonnet of his own patrol car when two men seized it.

PC Gurdial Sidhu, 36, was in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, in a serious but stable condition as Scotland Yard launched an inquiry and tried to contact his wife in a remote part of India. The constable, who has two children from his first marriage, recently married again in India.

Yesterday, detectives were trying to piece together how the officer was attacked on a street in Notting Hill while he was out on patrol. The case is being treated as attempted murder. PC Sidhu was found unconscious with a suspected fractured skull by officers manning a police van he had called to the scene.

Police believe he was attacked after he stopped two men in a B-registration Austin Maestro van. He began questioning the driver about the van and documentation and made a number of checks on his radio to the Police National Computer. He called for the van, which normally means a policeman is about to make an arrest.

The men then attacked the constable and ran to his Metro panda. A witness, who watched the incident from the window of his home, said the policeman was driven 50 yards on the bonnet of his own car before being thrown into the road.

Deported Triad gang may face execution

By OUR CRIME
CORRESPONDENT

TRIAD gangsters who kidnapped a Chinese chef and held him captive shackled to a radiator were each sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment yesterday at Southwark Crown Court. Judge Elfer, QC, who said he had been asked not to send the men back to China, where they could face execution, ordered that they should be deported.

The five men held Xiao Ming Cao, 25, for two weeks after seizing him off the street. He was forced to ring his wife at home in a remote corner of China to raise the ransom. Unknown to his captors he managed to pass on information using a rare dialect they did not understand and a joint operation between Scotland Yard and Chinese police released him.

Yesterday police said that the gang had seized the wrong man but decided to go ahead anyway. Scotland Yard believes the gang had carried out a number of other successful kidnaps targeting other illegal immigrants.

Police said Mr Cao's family could not have paid the ransom, which began at £40,000.

Jian Chen, 25, You Chen, 22, Um Y Tang, 36, and Li Feng, 19, all of Holloway, north London, and Liang Fan, 27, of Soho, central London, had all denied conspiracy to kidnap, conspiracy to falsely imprison, and conspiracy to blackmail.

Chen was routinely beaten as he talked to his wife to make sure she found the cash. He was starved and made to bark like a dog.

Briton's drugs case hearing switched

FROM MARK FULLER
IN THE HAGUE

THE Dutch authorities moved a trial of a Briton charged with running a £100 million racket to flood the United Kingdom with heroin, cocaine, ecstasy and hashish, to a secret location in The Hague yesterday after they feared an attempt to free the millionaire Liverpudlian.

In an unusual move for The Netherlands, Curtis Warren, together with two other Britons alleged to be members of the drugs ring, were taken to a makeshift court in a well-secured building, while the press followed proceedings via a satellite link. Lawyers were only informed late yesterday of the switch.

A court spokesman said that the authorities had deemed there was a security risk in transporting the defendants along a route that is known beforehand.

Mr Warren, 34, is charged with leading a gang that imported 317kg of cocaine from Venezuela into Rotterdam last year. Most of the drugs were said to be destined for Britain.

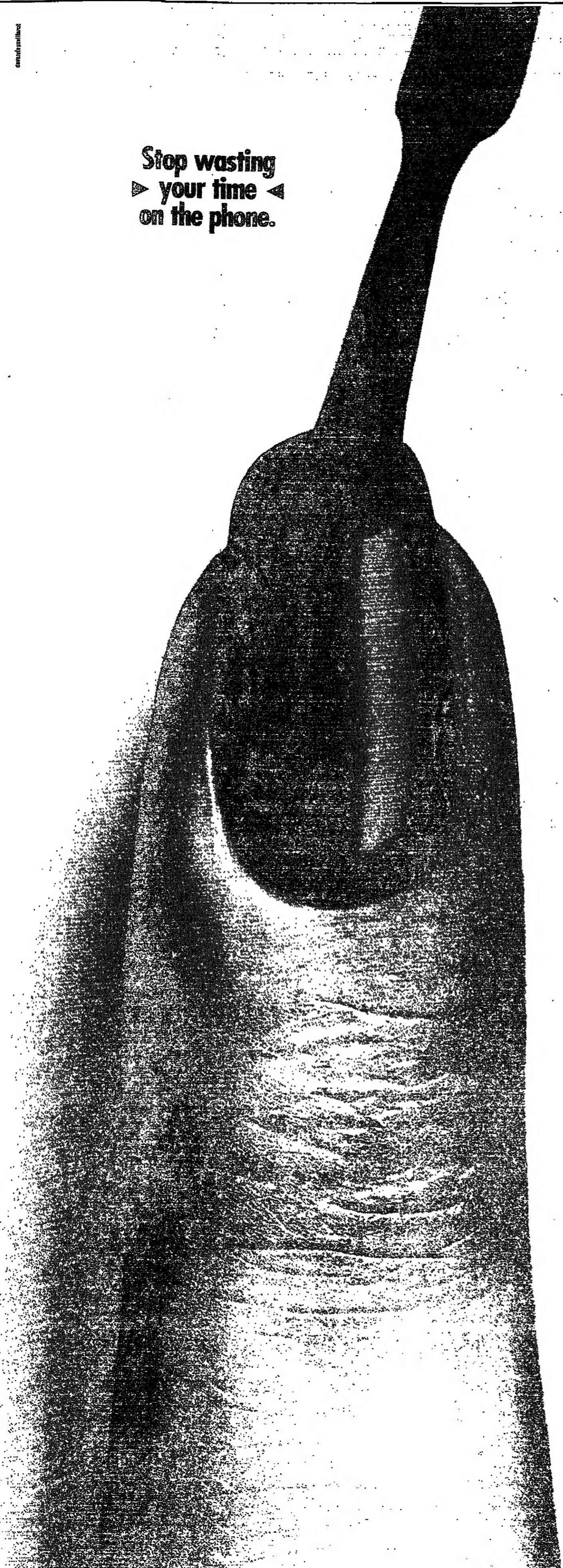
Han Jaha, counsel for Mr Warren, told the court that British police were used "to do what they want and operating in a culture of secrecy". Evidence from telephone taps by Dutch and British police detailed the extensive negotiations between Mr Warren and a co-defendant, Stephen Mee, 38, alias Tony Farrel, of Manchester.

Mr Warren told the court: "It's just a farce. I'm already found guilty, although it hasn't been said. I am being denied the original facts."

The third defendant is Stephen Whitehead, 34, of Oldham, Greater Manchester. The court will deliver its verdicts in two weeks.

© Alcatel

Stop wasting
► your time ◄
on the phone.

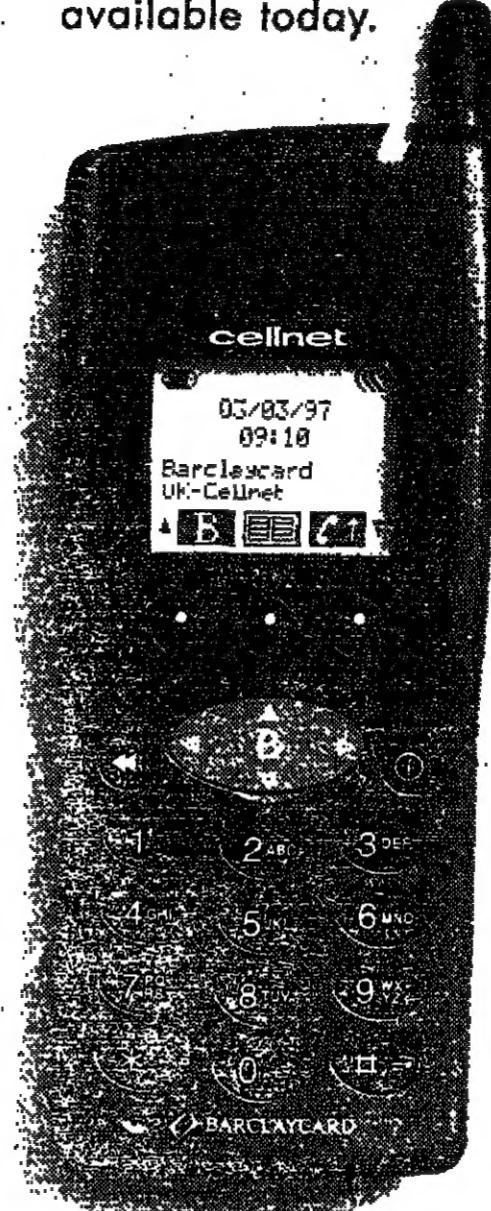


ONE TOUCH *Pro*

The Alcatel

One Touch PRO™ isn't
simply a GSM phone.

It's a terminal. It's
designed to access
better and faster all the
exciting new services
available today.



Like access to your Barclays
and Barclaycard account
information. Keeping you
in touch with your finances
while you are on the move.

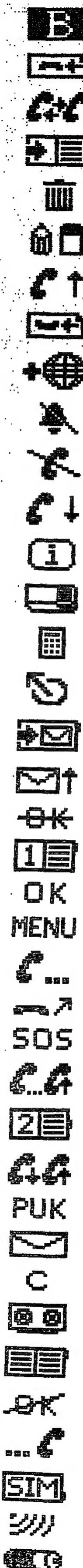
This phone customised
by Cellnet is exclusively
available for Barclaycard
customers.

Call 0 1276 67 53 72 and
quote "BC2" for information
and full written details.

Save time in no time.

▼
ALCATEL

The Hi-Speed Company



Social services criticised for insufficient warning to family, Ian Murray and Daniel McGrory report

Mental patient killed mother and two girls after release

TWO small girls and their mother died needlessly when a former mental patient who was supposed to be looking after them set fire to their home, an independent inquiry has decided.

Only after he realised his fantasy to kill did police find that Darren Carr was a suspected violent psychopath who had been released into the community without supervision. The inquiry panel was "dismayed and critical" at the attempts made by social services to alert the single mother to the danger Carr posed.

The inquiry was set up in May last year after Carr was jailed for life for the manslaughter of Susan Hearmon, 25, and her daughters Kylie Marie Roberts, 6, and Julie Anne Lowell, 4. They suffocated in June 1995 after Carr set fire to a carpet of their home in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Professor Geneva Richardson, chairman of the panel, said: "He was a potentially dangerous young man but he

posed a diagnostic dilemma to the caring agencies. Despite the vulnerability of the family it was decided there were no child protection concerns. Within a month the family was dead."

She accused Oxfordshire social services of showing "insufficient rigour" in its efforts to trace Carr after he moved into Mrs Hearmon's home to look after her daughters. Social workers had been given the wrong house number and shied efforts to trace him.

She said that when Carr asked doctors to admit him to a mental hospital in January 1995 she could be certain that a lack of beds influenced their decision to leave him in the community. Carr was "a potentially dangerous young man but who posed a diagnostic dilemma to the caring agencies; he could present himself very fluently and very coherently".

Although he needed treatment, no suitable beds could be found near his home at



Carr: sentenced to life for manslaughter

Bracknell, Berkshire. He had tried to kill his mother and threw a girl down a flight of stairs but police never charged him, so he had no record. Social workers lost touch with him because he gave no forwarding address when he left a special hostel.

The inquiry felt however that the existing regulations for controlling the mentally ill were also to blame. "There are

very clear limits to the ability of the mental health services to treat people with psychopathic disorders in the community," the panel reported.

"Once in the community Mr Carr was offered a generous programme of aftercare but he chose quickly to distance himself from it. He was free to make that choice because the law as it was in 1994-95 imposed no relevant controls upon him."

Carr had lived at Mrs Hearmon's home for six months after answering an advertisement in a shop window for someone to babysit in return for cheap rent. An epileptic and a loner, Carr was first arrested by Thames Valley Police in May 1995 when his mother called her after he tried to smash her head with a hammer.

He attacked her after she read his secret diary and asked what he meant by references to "the Keeper" and why he intended to get "rid of all the trash in the world".

He was admitted to a psychiatric ward in the local hospital and heavily sedated after he told a nurse that he could hear the voice of a man inside his head and he felt the urge to hurt someone and "put them into a coffin". Compulsorily detained under the Mental Health Act, he was sent to a private clinic in north Wales because there were no local beds available.

He was admitted to a psychiatric ward in the local hospital and heavily sedated after he told a nurse that he could hear the voice of a man inside his head and he felt the urge to hurt someone and "put them into a coffin". Compulsorily detained under the Mental Health Act, he was sent to a private clinic in north Wales because there were no local beds available.

He was sent back to Bracknell in June, 1995, when Diane Cater, the community mental health team manager, realised he needed 24-hour supervision which was not available. She gave him cash and he went back to his mother, who let him in but barricaded herself in her bedroom.

A bed was found at the secure unit at Fairmile Hospital, which serves patients from Oxfordshire and Berkshire. In January 1994 he was released to the Knowl, a specialist hostel in Abingdon. That November when the compul-



Julie Anne, left, and Kylie died when Carr started a fire in their home

sory order under the Mental Health Act lapsed he moved into his own flat.

In January 1995 he saw Mrs Hearmon's advertisement and decided to apply for it. Her third marriage had just broken up and she agreed to take him in.

"This case is horrific and demonstrates once again that the community care crisis is

able young man should have been allowed to seek employment as a residential babysitter to two young children.

"Even more astounding is the justification for inaction offered by the social services who say his civil liberties allowed him to distance himself from their generous programme of aftercare."

Parents blame social services for tragedy

THE distraught parents of Susan Hearmon last night described the guilt and regret they will carry for the rest of their lives that they did not try to take their grandchildren into their care before their daughter employed Darren Carr.

Jean Foulsham said: "We tried to protect those children, who in their short lives were abused and beaten."

Two years before she employed Carr to take care of Kylie and Julie-Anne, Susan Hearmon had refused to allow her parents to see her daughters after a row. Mrs Foulsham, 49, blames Oxfordshire Social Services.

"We were trying to help Susan, who was an unfit mother, but her social worker told her what we said and Susan called us traitors." She



Susan Hearmon: had a violent personality

sat in silence yesterday as the official inquiry suggested no individuals could be blamed. "How many children have to die before someone loses their job?" Mrs Foulsham said.

She described how her daughter suffered from a violent personality disorder. "She was a difficult girl and it got worse after she gave birth to Kylie."

Susan had left school at 16 and a year later left home to live with Robert Roberts. A year after her daughter was born Mr Roberts died in a swimming accident. Six months later she married Robert Lowell in December 1990 and the couple had a

daughter, Julie-Anne, in March 1991, but they separated three months later.

Her father, John Foulsham, 53, an electrical contractor, said: "At that time we had the two girls a lot because Susan could not cope, but she was panic stricken about them being taken away."

A neighbour had alerted social services in 1992 and the two girls were put on the "at risk" register. The woman, who did not wish to be named, described the squalid condition of the family's terraced home in Preston Street and told how when the girls would forage through dustbins for scraps of food.

"They were always thin and pale and very quiet, but one day I found them picking chips out of our waste-bin. When I said I would speak to their mother they begged me not to. I did not know how to protect them, or what to do."

In September 1994, their daughter married Michael Hearmon, but the couple soon separated.

Darren Carr answered Mrs Hearmon's advertisement for a live-in childminder in March 1995. Pamela Lennox, a neighbour, said Carr was a regular fixture at Thameside School most afternoons to meet the girls. "But then one day Kylie told me she was afraid of Carr but would not say why." Mrs Lennox alerted teachers at the school.

The girls had been taken off the "at risk" register in 1994, but once again officers from that social work team were called in. When Carr next collected the girls from school he was questioned by child protection officers but they took no further action.

On June 9, 1995, they again closed the file on the Hearmon girls. Seventeen days later Carr poured petrol in the hall of Preston Road and a massive explosion tore through the property.

Mrs Foulsham said: "We never had a chance to say goodbye to our grandchildren and we are haunted by the thought of what we should have done to save them."

Bus driver guilty of knife attack

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTACKER wielding a knife who lost a battle with a woman banker on the doorstep of her Kensington home in London was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Adrian Rajaratnam, 25, a bus driver with a history of mental illness, was remanded by Judge Gerber for reports before being sentenced.

Rajaratnam, who is from Welling, south London, is said to have a depressive illness. He was convicted of false imprisonment but cleared of possessing an offensive weapon after search failed to find a knife in the area of the attack.

During the trial Miss Callenbach, 28, a trader with JP Morgan, described how he grabbed her around the throat after following

her from an Underground station last September. As she walked down the steps to her home, Rajaratnam suddenly rushed after her and barged through the door as she opened it.

Miss Callenbach told the court that he grabbed her, put his hand over her mouth and pulled her backwards. He had a knife in his other hand.

Rajaratnam told Miss Callenbach not to scream but she sized him up and realised he was not much bigger than she was. She told the jury: "My immediate reaction was to fight back."

She pushed her attacker through the open door and into the street. He ran away but was chased and arrested by an off-duty policeman.

You're looking

through the eyes

of someone who

kept putting off

having an eye test.

Institute for the Blind (RNIB) recommends you have an eye health

test at your optician at least once every two years, however

old you are. It can make all the difference in the long run. If you

know someone with a sight problem, RNIB can help. For more

information or RNIB's free eye health leaflet, please call 0345 669 999.

This is what Eastenders could look like if you

have glaucoma, a common cause of sight loss.

Early detection of eye disease is crucial, but there

aren't always warning signs. You may not know

there's a problem until it's too late. That's why the Royal National

Institute for the Blind (RNIB) recommends you have an eye health

test at your optician at least once every two years, however

old you are. It can make all the difference in the long run. If you

know someone with a sight problem, RNIB can help. For more

information or RNIB's free eye health leaflet, please call 0345 669 999.



Royal National Institute for the Blind

Charity Registration Number 200227

Experts dismiss confessions from death-case nurses

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LAWYERS representing the two British nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia yesterday produced "dramatic new evidence" which they claim will destroy the case against the pair and could lead to their release.

Three United Kingdom medical experts have studied photocopies of the confessions extracted from Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry, on which their British lawyers say the whole case against them is based, and have ruled that the documents are "totally unreliable and totally unsafe".

The examination of the documents and the discrepancies, in an internationally-recognised "content analysis", appears to back up the nurses' claims that they were subject-

ed to threats of physical and sexual assault by Saudi police. The experts claim that the confession evidence was "coerced and compliant" and bears all the hallmarks of being untrue.

Their reports have been sent to the Saudi legal team and copies will be made available to the judges when the trial, adjourned for three weeks, resumes on June 15. McLaughlin, 31, from Dundee, and Parry, 38, from Hampshire, could face the death penalty if found guilty of the murder of fellow nurse Yvonne Gilford, 55, at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran where they all worked. They have repeatedly denied the charge. If convicted they could be beheaded.

The three experts have not

been named, but are said by the nurses' lawyers to be a professor of forensic medicine, a professor of psychology and a leading consultant psychiatrist. As well as the confessions, the experts have seen copies of the post mortem report on Miss Gilford. They are all prepared to travel to Saudi Arabia to give evidence in person if necessary.

The nurses' families, with their British legal advisers, Peter Watson and Roger Pannone, said yesterday that the women had been "lifted" by the latest developments. Stan McLaughlin, father of Lucille, said: "We feel that this is a major breakthrough and we hope they [the Saudi judges] will take it on board. In our opinion it destroys the confessions that were made."

Mr Pannone said that since the start of the trial the confessions had been the only evidence produced of the nurses' guilt. "We have seen no other evidence, therefore if the confession evidence fails, we would hope they would be released. This is a matter the judge is going to rule on either on the 16th or shortly after."

Mr Watson said the British legal team and the experts had been "surprised" by the lack of forensic evidence, given the nature of the murder. Miss Gilford was stabbed 13 times, beaten and then suffocated.

Small Faces star dies at 51 after long illness

By EMMA WILKINS

RONNIE LANE, guitarist and songwriter with the 1960s supergroups the Small Faces and the Faces, has died aged 51 after a long battle against multiple sclerosis.

Ronnie Wood, of the Rolling Stones who shot to fame in the Faces with Rod Stewart, said: "He's in a better place with old mates like Steve Marriott and Ian Stewart, and no doubt they are busy organising themselves into a fantastic band."

Marriott was Lane's songwriting partner in the Small Faces. He died in a fire at his Essex home six years ago. Long-time Rolling Stones piano player Stewart, who also collaborated with Lane in 1965,

Other tributes came from friends including Sir Jimmy Savile and Francis Rossi, lead singer with Status Quo, who both paid tribute to Lane's bravery.

The great affection in which Lane was held by his colleagues in rock music was illustrated when a host of stars appeared in a concert he helped to organise at the Royal Albert Hall in 1983 in aid of Action Research for Multiple Sclerosis. Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Bill Wyman, Charlie Watts and Jimmy Page all appeared, and to a great cheer Lane played a few chords.

Obituary, page 25



Lane before the 1983 Albert Hall concert with some of the rock stars who appeared

Ann and Stan McLaughlin: "It's a breakthrough"



ATTRACTIVE RETURNS ON YOUR INVESTMENT
- UP TO 6.55% GROSS P.A.

GUARANTEED TO MATCH BASE RATE
RISES THROUGHOUT 1997

PLUS SPECIAL 1% GROSS P.A. BONUS
UNTIL 31 JULY 1997 - SO HURRY

INVESTOR 90

0800
100 801
(QUOTING REFERENCE A556/10)

OR CALL INTO YOUR
LOCAL BRANCH

ABBEY
NATIONAL®

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor calls. The minimum investment is £2,000. A bonus of 1% gross p.a. will be payable on accounts until 31.7.97. From 1.8.97 the interest rate will revert to our standard Investor 90 rate. Rates may vary. Until 31.12.97 if the average base rate of all UK Clearing Banks is increased, the annual gross interest rate payable will be increased by no less than that increase. 6.55% gross p.a. is payable on balances of £200,000 or over. See leaflet for full conditions. You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross; otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. The Share Dealing Service has been arranged by Abbey National plc with ShareLink, a member of The London Stock Exchange and regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority. ABBEY NATIONAL PLC IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR ITS SHARE DEALING SERVICE. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London, NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Problem family to move into the Street

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CORONATION STREET, the model of northern life, is to introduce its first out-and-out problem family in the latest move to halt sliding ratings.

The Battersbys will feature a mother and father who have done time in jail and children whose pastimes include shoplifting and playing truant. They will have a clapped-out car and ghetto-blasters, and Mr Battersby will attempt to sell stolen goods to other residents of the street.

Although the storyline is likely to anger traditional fans of Britain's longest-running soap opera, producers believe it is essential to propel the programme into the 1990s and compete with its streetwise rival, *EastEnders*.

Brian Park, the producer of *Coronation Street* and nicknamed "The Axeeman" because he has written out so many longstanding characters, said: "The Battersbys are an exciting injection of fresh blood into the Street." He said they followed in the tradition of earlier characters, "balancing the mix of comedy and drama for which *Coronation Street* is justly renowned".

The new family, who will be seen on screen next month, will move into Don Breman's old house. They have been rehoused by the council, who have bought No 5 after Breman was sent to a secure mental hospital.

The character of Les Battersby, played by Bruce Jones, spent six months in prison for handling stolen property. He has also done six months' community service for burglary and was bound over to keep the peace and fined £100 for threatening and abusive behaviour.

His wife, Janice, played by Vicki Entwistle, is described as a "loudmouthed machinist" at Mike Baldwin's factory. She has been in prison for fraud, fined for shoplifting and given six months' community service for causing an affray.

Janice's daughter, Janet Browning, said: "There is no doubt that Karen's actions saved my Mum. The doctor told me if Mum had not got to hospital that night and into the operating theatre for a perforated ulcer she would not be with us now."

Mrs Middleton is making a good recovery and has been visited by her rescuer in hospital.

Ms Christian said that, when the telephone rang, she "agonised for about five minutes, but something — call it a woman's intuition if you like — told me that something was wrong. I just trusted my feelings and acted on them."

Professor Paul Bew asks us to make clear that he did not say that famine relief for Ireland during the 1840s (report June 2) amounted to £50 million. The figure given was closer to £10 million, and covered the period of the administrations of both Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell.

Wrong number saves pensioner

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN'S intuition helped to save the life of a pensioner who dialled her telephone number in mistake for a friend's after collapsing at her chair.

She was taken to Southampton General Hospital, where surgeons carried out emergency surgery on a perforated ulcer.

Mrs Middleton's daughter, Janet Browning, said: "There is no doubt that Karen's actions saved my Mum. The doctor told me if Mum had not got to hospital that night and into the operating theatre for a perforated ulcer she would not be with us now."

Mrs Middleton is making a good recovery and has been visited by her rescuer in hospital.

Ms Christian said that, when the telephone rang, she "agonised for about five minutes, but something — call it a woman's intuition if you like — told me that something was wrong. I just trusted my feelings and acted on them."

LAURA ASHLEY

15%
OFF

ALL
UPHOLSTERED
FURNITURE

Offer ends Sunday 22nd June 1997

BUY NOW
PAY 1998

15% APR Interest Free Credit
on purchases over £500

For your nearest Laura Ashley store
call 0890 622416

Original price

A minimum deposit of 25% is required.
Typical example: £1,000 at 15% APR interest free credit over 12 months.
£1,250 APR £1,000 to explore your options
subject to application and subject to status.

Cannot be used in conjunction
with any other offer.

Straw plans curbs on 'advisers' who dupe immigrants

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to curb "advisers" who prey on ethnic minorities by offering expensive and unnecessary advice on immigration and asylum. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is planning to regulate the hundreds of consultants after complaints from MPs whose constituents have paid large sums for help in dealing with immigration officials.

Mr Straw made the pledge yesterday as he announced the ending of the controversial "primary purpose" immigration rule. The rule allowed immigration officers to refuse entry to citizens from outside the European Union who wanted to marry a British citizen if they thought that the main purpose of the marriage was to settle in Britain.

The move against "advisers" comes after it was disclosed that some were charging high fees simply to take application documents to offices in Croydon, south

London. Others posed as experts but gave worthless advice or set up offices to take on hopeless cases.

Mr Straw said: "There is a problem with unqualified immigration advisers. They take large sums of money off people to pursue bogus and frankly completely unmeritorious claims. These advisers, so called, are making a killing out of this, persuading people to pursue bogus applications."

Mr Straw is to publish a consultation document later in the year and is studying ways to regulate the industry, which could involve a system of licensed practitioners who would have to meet minimum standards or a register of a number of immigration advice bureaux — suggested in 1993 but never implemented.

Claude Morais, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, welcomed Mr Straw's pledge. "A huge number of vulnerable people

end up being given wrong or unnecessary advice for huge amounts of money, sometimes running into hundreds and hundreds of pounds," he said.

The abolition of the primary purpose rule could allow about 1,000 people refused entry because of it last year, and who are currently appealing against the decision, to enter the United Kingdom.

People seeking to enter the country will still have to show that the marriage is genuine and they intend to live permanently as man and wife; both parties to the marriage must have met and they must show that they can maintain any dependents without seeking public funds. Officials will be able to make spot checks at their home for a year.

Mr Straw disappointed immigrant welfare groups by leaving the burden of proof on applicants for entry to show that they could meet the criteria.

MICHAEL POWELL

The RAF Chipmunks team under Squadron Leader Tony Cowan, below, have met chill winds but warm greetings from their former enemies

Russian welcome for Chipmunk pioneers

TWO RAF Chipmunks flying around the world are now more than halfway across Russia and have been battling against strong Siberian winds on their pioneering trip (Michael Evans writes).

Squadron Leader Tony Cowan, leading the team of three pilots, telephoned *The Times* from Siberia after a 500-mile flight east from Omsk to Kemerovo, before departing for Krasnoyarsk, where the Russians used to have an early warning ballistic missile station. How-

ever, with the Cold War over, Squadron Leader Cowan and his team have been warmly welcomed by the Russian authorities every time they have landed for fuel and food.

Squadron Leader Tony Cowan, 51, said: "At one of the airports the wind was so strong we were unable to land on the runway so the Russians arranged for us to land on a grass strip." The RAF team — Squadron Leaders Cowan, Cedric Hughes, 63, and Bill Purchase, 60 — has a Russian

navigator, Major Yuri Vostroknutov, 39. The piston-engined Chipmunks are the first foreign air force craft to fly across Russia since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The trip, named Exercise Northern Venture, began on May 20 and is expected to take six weeks, with a total flying time of about 56 hours. Last night the Chipmunks arrived at Bratsk to put them more than a quarter of the way around the world, and are expected to reach Alaska within a week.



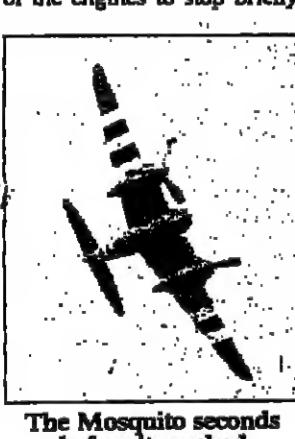
Safety review after six air-display crashes in a year

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

SAFETY at air shows is to be tightened after six crashes in the past year. The Civil Aviation Authority has begun a detailed review of safety.

One of the crashes, last July, killed the pilot and navigator of the last airworthy Mosquito at a show at Barton airfield, Manchester. The crash was caused by an engine problem first identified during the Second World War, but the remedy had "largely been forgotten" by engineers, air accident investigators said yesterday.

The carburetor in the vintage wooden-framed aircraft cut the fuel flow, causing one of the engines to stop briefly



The Mosquito seconds before it crashed.

and threw the Mosquito into a series of uncontrollable turns that ended in a high-speed crash into a wood. The dead men were Kevin Moorhouse, 50, the pilot, who was recognised as one of the most skilled display pilots, and Stephen Watson, 33, of Wirral.

The accident report said that video taken by spectators showed a puff of smoke and a bang as the aircraft pulled up into a steep turn and performed a "wing-over". "Early on in the Second World War, it was found that Merlin-powered aircraft were disadvantaged when taking evasive action due to a tendency for the engines to cut out under negative G conditions," it said. A technical "fix" was introduced.

But investigation of the carburetors on the crashed Mosquito showed that neither unit met the specified fuel flow requirements under negative G conditions. "The Merlin's reputation for cutting under negative G conditions had endured since the Second World War. Curiously, the fact that a successful carburetor modification had been developed and incorporated on the subject aircraft to remedy the problem had largely been forgotten," the accident report says.

Restricted Services Licences

Invitation to Apply

The Independent Television Commission is inviting applications for licences to provide restricted services.

There are two types of Restricted Services Licences. The first is to cover a specific event and will be for a term of 56 days. The second is location-based and will be for a two year period, renewable subject to competition and frequency availability.

An ITC Guidance Note specifying the terms and conditions relating to the award and provision of restricted services together with supplementary documents are available from the ITC Information Office at the address below.

A £500 fee must accompany applications. If a suitable frequency is identified, an additional £1,500 is payable. Annual fees of £2,225 will also be payable for ITC and Wireless Telegraphy Act licences.

Applications for event-based Restricted Services Licences will be considered on receipt by the ITC. Applications for location-based Restricted Services Licences must reach the ITC no later than 5pm on 30 September 1997. Thereafter applications for location-based RSLs will be considered approximately every six months.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary to the Independent Television Commission, 33 Foley Street, London W1P 7LB.



Independent Television Commission

FOR ONCE, THEY'RE NOT ARGUING ABOUT MONEY.



£75 A MONTH (APR 4.7%)
PLUS DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT.

You may compromise in a relationship. But not in a Fiat showroom. Here, you get

what you want. Like the award-winning Punto designed by the Italian master

Giorgetto Giugiaro. With a choice of not just red

or green, but 15 different colours. Eight of which are

totally new to the range. And aerodynamics that are,

well, dynamic. But even your other half would agree,

looks aren't everything. What's inside is important

too. Like the Punto's spacious interior, enough to

accommodate 5 adults. And the twin side-impact bars, seat belt pretensioners and

optional air bags. There'll be no dispute either about the increased power from the

new 1.2 litre engine that replaces the 1.1 litre in the Punto S. And the new 16 valve

85 bhp engine available in the Sporting, ELX and Cabrio. Even the uprated

suspension will give you an easy ride. The on the road

price of just £7,763.68[†] will also sit comfortably

with you. Especially as Fiat's unique new Flexible

Easiplan offers a host of ways to pay. You choose the

length of repayment, deposit and mileage rates that

suit you best. Whichever Punto you choose, you're

laughing. And that's the best thing for any relationship. Call 0800 71 7000,

<http://www.fiat.co.uk>^{††} or visit your local Fiat dealer for more information.

Spirito di Punto

DRIVEN BY PASSION

CARS SHOWN. THAT PUNTO 605 3DR AT £7,763.68 ON THE ROAD (AVAILABLE IN 13 COLOURS). PRICE INCLUDES £95 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES, VAT AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE AND IS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 26/5/97. OFFER 18 AND OVER SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE AND/OR INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. FLEXIBLE EASIPLAN SUBJECT TO LENGTH OF AGREEMENT BEING FROM 20 TO 42 MONTHS. THE DEPOSIT BETWEEN MINIMUM 10% AND MAXIMUM 40% AND ANNUAL MILEAGE BETWEEN 15,000 AND 25,000 MILES. *FOR YOUR FREE INTERNET CONNECTION (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY) THROUGH FIAUTO TO VIEW THE INTERNET SITE CALL 0800 71 7000. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM FIAT AUTO FINANCIAL SERVICES, PO BOX 1702, EDINBURGH EH2 5TW.

Empty government offices could cost taxpayers £500m

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Government has empty offices and buildings around the country equivalent to a development 50 per cent bigger than Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

The National Audit Office is concerned that, if the accommodation is not sold or re-let, the cost to the taxpayer could rise to £500 million. Sir John Burn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, suggests in a report to MPs that the total bill could be higher if the Government has difficulty raising cash to buy out its commitment from long property leases.

Already this year the taxpayer will have to pick up a bill of about £93 million. "It is a matter of regret that the Exchequer receives no value from the considerable sums being spent on empty govern-

ment offices," Sir John says. Among the expensive vacant buildings in London is Centenary House in Victoria, the former home of MI6, which has moved into a plush new complex on the South Bank of the Thames. With 18,400 square metres, it is one of the largest empty properties in the capital. The former MI5 premises in Vauxhall Bridge Road are also empty.

Another eyesore is the 6,500-square-metre Anchorage Tower on Highgate Hill, north London, former home of the Benefits Agency. Other unused properties are the Health Department building in Southwark, Inland Revenue offices in Whitechapel Road in the East End, and Employment Service premises in Wimbledon.

The level of empty office

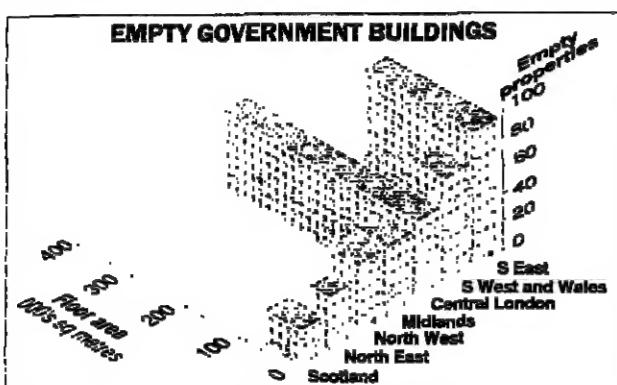
space more than doubled from 1992 to 1996 as the Tory administration drove through its Whitehall reforms; there are 384 empty properties totalling 830,000 square metres. The Civil Service was slimmed down as Ministers pressed through privatisation programmes, moved offices out of London to the regions and created government agencies and market-testing.

The problem identified by Sir John is that even though the property market has been on the upturn, there is little call for second-hand office space, particularly of old, low-quality buildings in London such as those vacated.

Sir John is concerned that the Government owns only 40 per cent of the buildings freehold and their best estimated value is £80 million. Of the 60 per cent on lease, Sir John believes they could be harder to dispose of particularly if rents are above market value and if landlords refuse to allow sub-letting or will not allow the Government to buy out the remainder of the lease.

The government property services agency hopes to dispose of most properties within four years.

Peter Kilfoyle, junior Public Services Minister, said he would keep a close interest in how the agency disposed of the properties.



GEOFF ROBINSON

RAF man survives as chute fails at 3,000ft

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF parachutist escaped serious injury yesterday when his main parachute failed to open at 3,000ft after a freefall jump from 12,000ft.

Warrant Officer Alistair MacDonald, 50, had only seconds to jettison his main parachute and open his reserve before landing. WO MacDonald, who has completed 2,500 jumps, was last night recovering in hospital from minor back injuries after landing heavily in the drop zone at Keevil, Wiltshire.

The incident happened as he and other parachute instructors from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire were practising high-altitude low-opening (HALO) jumps from a C130 Hercules aircraft.

An RAF spokesman said: "The HALO exercise is a well-established fall and is no more risky than any other type of exercise. Incidents such as this where the main parachute fails to work properly are rare but it is one of the acceptable risks that parachutists take."

He added: "His reserve parachute would have provided a fair bit of deceleration but he would certainly have hit the ground harder than he was expecting. His injuries could have been far worse and he could even have been killed."

WO MacDonald, who is based at the parachuting school at RAF Lyneham, was taken to Salisbury District Hospital and treated for bruises to his back.



Mr Glynn Jones

Our report (May 30) of the conviction of Mr Glynn Jones, the leading sheepdog trials and current Welsh champion, for ill-treating five colts at his North Wales farm at Penmachno, was mistakenly accompanied in our earlier editions by a photograph of Mr Glynn Jones.

We are glad to make it clear that Mr Glynn Jones, pictured above, who is also from North Wales, has never been convicted of anything. His distinguished career as a sheepdog trials spans 50 years, during which he and his family have bred, trained and sold sheepdogs worldwide. As a leading authority on the subject, he has written books and made videos about sheepdogs; he has won numerous competitions and has appeared frequently on television.

We apologise to Mr Glynn Jones for our mistake and for the embarrassment inevitably caused. We have agreed to pay him a sum by way of compensation.

Buoyant pound helps keep food prices down

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE strength of the pound has contributed to lower food prices in the shops. Market analysts reported yesterday that prices are falling by up to 1% per cent a year. Fresh fruit and vegetables are generally lower in price than last year, and there has been a sharp drop in the price of lamb. There is also plenty of cut-price champagne about.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: rump steak £6.99 a kg. Scotch beef mince £1.69 a lb, lemon and pepper escalopes £1.99 for 284g, frozen vegetarian ready meals £1.29 each, thin and crispy garlic mushroom pizza 99p, strawberries £1.49 for 450g, mangoes 29p each.

Budgens: Welsh lamb whole half leg £5.69 a kg, chicken breast fillets £4.99 for 625g, roast turkey breast 69p a lb, large open mushrooms 75p for 227g, sweet pickle 75p for 312g, Belgian buns 75p for two.

Co-op (CWS): pork boneless leg steaks £4.39 a kg, minced lamb £1.99 for 400g, Red Beauty plums 99p a kg, Thailand mixed chillies 80p a pack, traditional salad 99p for 250g, closed mushrooms 99p a lb, Moët & Chandon champagne £14.99.

Harrods: peppered ham on the bone £1.89 for 100g, tomato and mozzarella quiche £1.20 a slice, three-peppered terrine £1.49 for 100g, tomato and mozzarella salad £1.59 for 100g, vegetarian ciabatta £2.99 each.

Iceland: smoked salmon steaks £2.99 for 680g, lemon sole fillets £3.49 for 600g, Lincolnshire sausages £1.69 for 16, turkey breast steaks £3.49 for 700g, garden peas 75p for 907g, Black Forest gateau 99p for 56g portions.

Kwik-Save: Ross economy burgers 39p for four, Heinz

WEEKEND SHOPPING

salad cream 43p for 285g, Heinz tomato ketchup 11.09 for 113g, Coca Cola £1.49 for 6x330ml.

Marks & Spencer: lime and coriander mini chicken fillets £2.49 for 230g, salmon cucumber and pasta salad £2.49 for 230g, two cream doughnuts 99p, smoked salmon £2.99 for 100g, Chinese mini fillets £2.49 for 230g, Oudinot champagne £9.99.

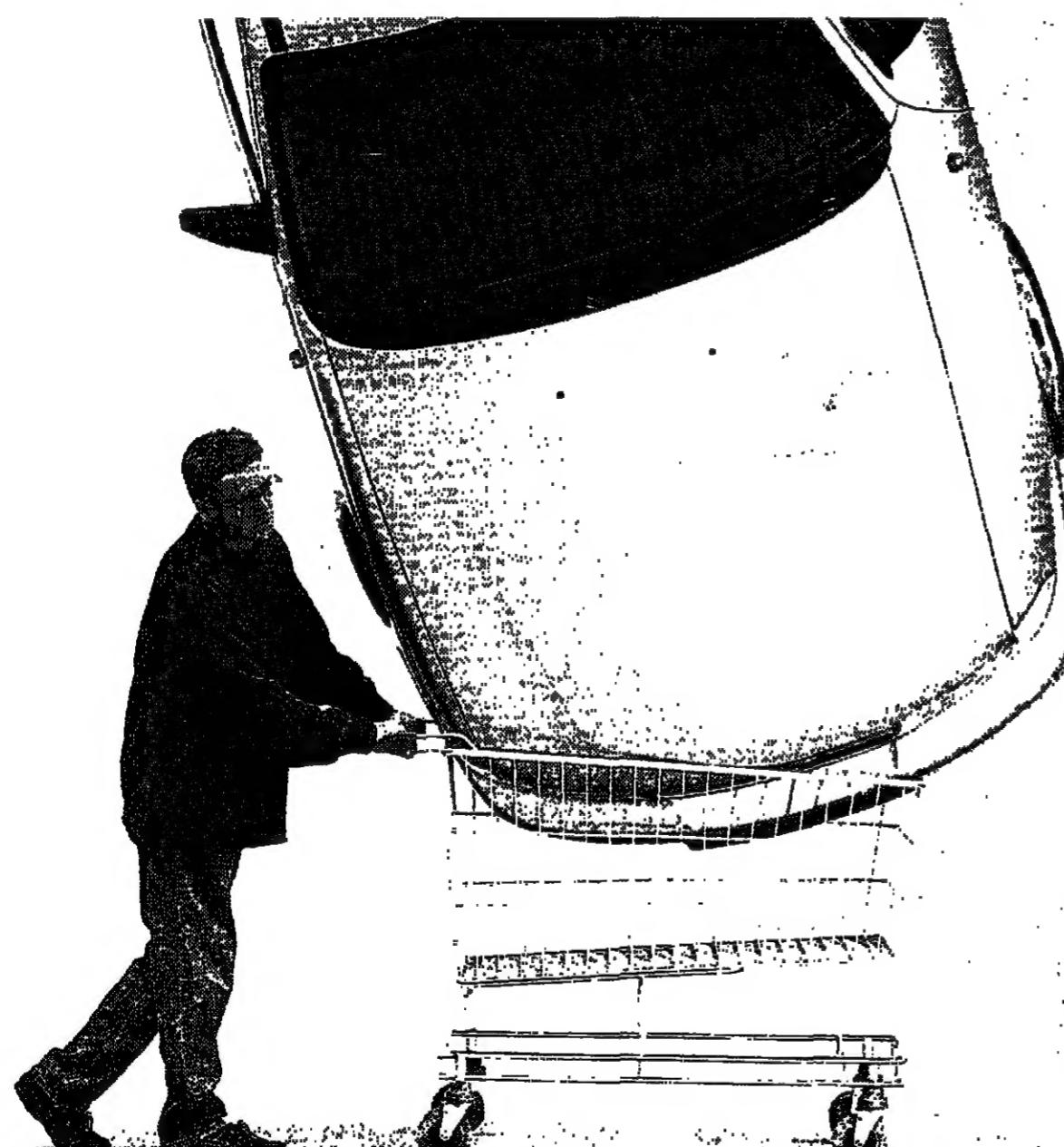
Safeway: rump steak £7.49 a kg, Scottish salmon steaks £3.32 for 570g, tagliatelle carbonara 99p for 300g, large avocados 69p for two, cherry tomatoes 59p for 250g, satsumas 99p a kg, Picta cherries 99p for 450g, plums 99p kg, nectarines 32p each.

Sainsbury's: pork boneless leg joints £2.99 a kg, turkeys 97p a kg, Jersey Royals 19p a lb, red plums 69p a lb, yellow/orange peppers £1.29 a lb, vegetable balls £1.49 for 350g, herb bread 69p for 170g.

Somerfield: Whole/half lamb leg £5.38 a kg, mixed kebabs £1.99 for 340g, French-style pork steaks £2.29 for 233g, Chinese leaf 79p each, mangout £1.19 for 207g, potatoes £1.19 5kg, red seedless grapes 99p a lb, plums 89p a lb.

Tesco: beef fillet £3.99 a kg, half leg of lamb £5.75 a kg, pork chops £4.49 a kg, cod fillets £1.95 a lb, plaice fillets £2.99 a lb, broccoli 69p a lb, carrots 52p for 1.5kg, sliced runner beans £1.29 for 300g, white potatoes 54p for 2.5kg, conference pears 59p a lb.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus beefburgers 79p for 170g, pan-bake vegetable pizza £1.99 for 410g, German salami 95p for 100g, Maris new potatoes £1.39 for 2.5kg, onions 99p each, radishes 45p a bunch, plum tomatoes 75p a lb, French sunflower honey £1.35 a lb.



THE DAEWOO 30th ANNIVERSARY SALE IS NOW ON.

1997 marks Daewoo's 30th anniversary of being in business. To celebrate, we're having a sale. As you'd expect, every Daewoo still comes with the following comprehensive package:

1. WE DEAL DIRECT: More for your money as standard, including Electronic ABS, Driver's airbag, Power steering.

2. HASSLE FREE BUYING: Fixed prices, including delivery and 12 months road tax.

3. COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND: 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing including parts and labour.

3 years free comprehensive insurance, subject to status.

3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty.

3 year Daewoo Total AA Cover.

6 year anti-corrosion warranty.

4. COURTESY SERVICING: Free courtesy car whenever yours is in for a service.

And as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations, every private customer can choose one from any of the offers listed below. Written details for all offers available on request. Daewoo prices range from just £9,445 to £13,735 for the 3, 4 and 5 door Nexia and Espero saloon. To find out where your nearest store is, call us on 0800 666 222.

1.) £500 worth of fuel vouchers.

2.) £500 cashback.

3.) Choice of up to £750 worth of Daewoo electronic products.

4.) £500 towards your deposit with Daewoo Direct Finance. Typical APR 11.2%.

SALE OFFERS AND 3 YEARS PEACE OF MIND? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

30th Anniversary

Your Lux just changed.

From May 6th you will be able to fly direct to Luxembourg from London Gatwick with a choice of three new flights each weekday.

Call British Airways on 0345 222111 or contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

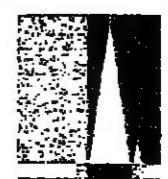
Services operated by the independent carrier CityFlyer Express Limited.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
Express



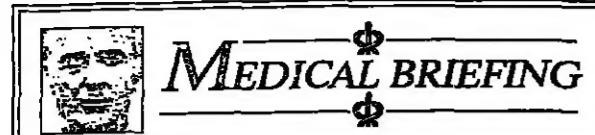
Hurry. Don't miss the June 10th deadline.

By now, Norwich Union members should have received a mini-prospectus and application form to buy shares at a discount in the Members' Offer. Completed application forms must be in by 2pm on Tuesday 10th June.



**NORWICH
UNION**

£7m hope to soothe inflammation pain



A NEW laboratory, built with £7 million from the Japanese drug manufacturers Yamamichi, opens today in Oxford, which has been a centre for investigation into inflammatory conditions for more than a generation.

The inflammatory bowel diseases Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis have quite different origins and produce different physical changes in the guts – a condition suffered by eight million people in Britain – although both may cause diarrhoea and abdominal pain. No persistent physical finding in the gut wall can be found to account for the abdominal pain, wind, diarrhoea or constipation which afflicts patients with inflammatory bowel syndrome, and their troubles seem to be the result of malfunction of the gut rather than any physical disability within it.

Conversely the walls of the gastrointestinal tract of patients with inflammatory bowel disease, whether Crohn's or ulcerative colitis, are severely, sometimes dangerously, damaged by inflammation, swelling and ulceration. As well as caus-

ing bleeding, diarrhoea and occasionally perforation and obstruction, the generalised toxic effect of acute inflammation leaves the patient anaemic and feeling unwell and sometimes seriously ill. In Crohn's disease the ulceration, although centred on the small intestine, can attack any part of the gastrointestinal tract from the mouth to the perianal area.

Crohn's disease can ulcerate the full thickness of the gut wall. Ulcerative colitis, conversely, attacks the large gut but only involves the mucosal layers together with the sub-mucosal and epithelial wall. Introduction recently of a steroid, Entocort, has enabled larger doses of steroids to be given to patients.

Although it is the inflammatory bowel diseases which are the killers, the average patient with inflammatory bowel syndrome takes 17 days off work a year because of its symptoms and its treatment. It is estimated to cost the state £500 million annually.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Two out of ten units would shut under BMA plan to rationalise healthcare

Consultants offer to mastermind hospital closures

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSULTANTS said yesterday that they were ready to mastermind the closure of some smaller hospitals as the NHS sought to make further savings.

But they emphasised that they would do so only if they were put in charge of the reorganisation and if market forces played no part in deciding which hospitals should shut.

James Johnson, chairman of the British Medical Association's consultants' committee, told its annual meeting that they knew that ministers were being told by the Civil Service and senior NHS management that now was the time to sort out the hospitals.

That would mean just 25 hospitals for the whole of the UK, and that would be impossible.

A BMA working party had analysed the effect of creating a network of mega-hospitals. Each one would need to replace ten existing units and have 6,100 beds, far more than any hospital ever built. It

would be too unwieldy to work. "No one could afford to build it. No one in the world knows how to run it, so it does seem to us a little improbable that it will ever happen."

A second proposal to create 5,000-bed hospitals based on existing ones would force patients to travel long distances and was unlikely to produce any savings, he said.

A third model, involving shutting two out of ten hospitals and keeping an accident and emergency department at five of the remaining eight would be feasible, he said, although there was no proof it would save money or improve care.

"Compared to building a mega-hospital, this is a fairly modest proposal, but in terms of political consequences it would be pretty tremendous."

"If there was a political will to do it, it could be done, and it would probably work." There would have to be careful planning.

"You have to decide exactly where you're going to put things and how they relate to other specialities. What you cannot do is what's happening at the moment, and just leave it to the market."

It to the market." Independent analysts had found that a hospital with more than 500 beds began to have diseconomies of scale, he said.

He said that even though the Government seemed sympathetic to the National Health Service, "the dead hand of the Treasury clings to the belief that the NHS can continue to be truly comprehensive without the need to inject considerable amounts of increased funding".

If Labour stuck to its promise to stay inside the last Government's spending, he said, the result "will be a catastrophe of hitherto unheard of proportions for the service. It would indeed be ironic for a Labour Government to preside over the dissolution of the comprehensive nature of the NHS."

Warning that a winter crisis was looming, he said that this could only be avoided with planning and money. "The only certainty seems to be that each winter will be worse than the last," he said. "Whatever action is required, doing nothing over the coming months does not seem to be an option."



Dr Joyce Goold, who says it would be criminal to close down Odham's hospital

Villagers want right to buy

By IAN MURRAY

NINETY years ago, the people of Odham, in Hampshire, decided they wanted a hospital of their own and held fêtes and collections to raise the money to build it. Now the NHS is threatening to close the hospital and they are trying to organise events again to buy it back.

"There isn't a family in the area who hasn't had a friend or relative treated there," said Dr Joyce Goold, a GP on the committee. "I have a huge file of letters from people begging us to save it."

Odham Cottage Hospital has 12 beds in two wards, plus

another in a single room, and there are rarely any vacancies. In the past, minor operations were carried out there, but these days most of the patients are elderly. The senior sister, three staff nurses and four auxiliaries run a small clinic for accidents. The ten GPs in the two local practices are available on a rota in emergencies.

Despite its popularity with the 23,000 people in the area, the Lodden NHS Trust, which pays its bills, decided a year ago to close it. According to the trust's figures, this would save £278,000 a year and soak up spare capacity at the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke. Dr Goold and her colleagues have rival figures. "We could cut the cost in one of our beds from £158 a night to £79 a night," she said. "We could save on management charges and bring the bill right down. It is nonsense to say they have spare capacity at Basingstoke. Last winter all their beds and ours were full for long periods."

She argues that patients in the cottage hospital recover more quickly because their relatives can visit them more easily and the care is more personal. "It would be criminal to shut it down. It would harm the health of the community."

Public apathy hits diabetes research

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RESEARCH into diabetes is at risk because the public fails to understand how dangerous the disease is, a MORI survey says today.

Although there are 1.4 million diabetics in Britain, the poll found that diabetes came at the end of a list of illnesses on which the public wanted to spend research money. The British Diabetic Association said that it was having to turn down applications for grants for projects that could eliminate or control the disease over the next 20 years.

Launching a campaign today to raise enough money to fund the necessary research, the association said that the work would ultimately save the National Health Service billions of pounds.

The MORI poll found widespread ignorance about the disease. At least 75 per cent did not know it could cause heart disease or strokes. 56 per cent did not believe it could lead to amputations, and 44 per cent were unaware that it could

cause kidney failure. Of the 2,082 people interviewed, 45 per cent had no idea that it could cause death.

The association said that only 10 per cent of those surveyed wanted more money spent on diabetes research, compared with 41 per cent who wanted more money for work on Aids and HIV.

Apathy towards the disease persisted, although there was evidence that its incidence was rising among the under-fives, that 20,000 people under 20 would have to inject themselves with insulin for the rest of their lives, and that it had become one of the main causes of blindness.

The association spends £4.5 million a year on research but, because the cost of equipment is rising by 10 per cent a year, fewer projects can be funded. To mark National Diabetes Week, which starts on Monday, diabetics will tour Sainsbury's supermarkets giving advice on dishes best suited for diabetics.

Dixons Diamond Deals

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
OF BRINGING YOU THE
LATEST TECHNOLOGY

SAVE
£400

HITACHI
28300
28" WIDESCREEN TV
WITH DOLBY
PRO-LOGIC AND
3-D SOUND

• 66cm visible screen size.
• Acoustic sub-woofer.
• Fastext for easy access to
Teletext information services.
• Super flat black line picture
tube.
Was £1299.99.

Diamond Deal
£899.99

SAVE
£30

SONY
M2930
RECORDING
MINIDISC
WALKMAN

• Digital recording.
• Digital synchronised
recording.
• 10 second shock
protection.
• Full volume function.
• Digital mega bass.

Was £279.99.

£299.99

NEW

Panasonic RXD77
COSTA-TOP
PORTABLE CD
SYSTEM

• Digital radio.
• 3 dimensional sound.
• Remote control.
• Head cassette.

Was £199.99.

£199.99



PRICE –
WE CAN'T
BE BEATEN

One visit, and you'll find out why.

RANGE – BRITAIN'S BEST

Whatever you're looking for, you'll find a great choice here.

THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY

If it's new we've got it. Come in and see it now.

ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

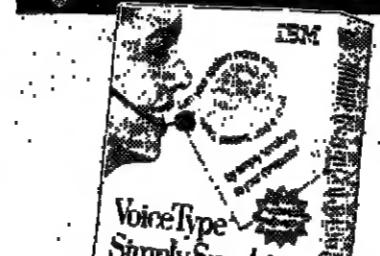
Whether you choose the product that's right for you.

QUALITY GUARANTEED

All products are backed by Mastercare, Britain's biggest service and repair network.

Bigger
and
Better
than
Ever!

HALF PRICE



IBM
VOICETYPE SIMPLY SPEAKING

Turn spoken word into text with the latest technology in voice

dictation software.

• Recognition of your individual pronunciation.

• Pre-programmed vocabulary of 30,000 words, plus 22,000 new words.

• Typing speed of 70-100 words per minute.

Please check that your PC is compatible before purchase.

Was £299.99. Diamond Deal £44.99



SAVE £50

SONY MHC-RX90
MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI

• Plays up to 3 CDs.
• 2 x 100 watts RMS power output.
• Karaoke/full DJ mix facility.
• 4 speakers included.
• RDS digital tuner.

Was £449.99. Diamond Deal £399.99



6 MONTHS INTEREST
FREE OPTION*

SONY PLAYSTATION 32
6 GAME PACK

Includes Console and Worms, Oracle Soccer, Warcraft 4x4, Paperboy, and 3 choices of any Platinum game.

PLUS EXTRA PSX JoyPad

Total Separate Selling Price £379.99.

Was £249.95. Diamond Deal £249.95



SAVE £50

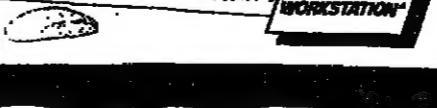
OLYMPUS MDR-1000Z

• Switchable panorama.

• Database.

• Weatherproof.

Was £249.99. Diamond Deal £249.99



SAVE £50

SONY DSC-F1
DIGITAL CAMERA

• 640 x 480 pixels.

• Stores up to 100 images.

• 32MB internal memory.

• 3x optical zoom.

• Rotating lens.

Was £699.99. Diamond Deal £649.99



MMX™
TECHNOLOGY
FOR ONLY £1399

Acer P166

MMX™ INTEL PENTIUM® TOWER PC

• 166MHz Intel Pentium®

processor with MMX™

technology, 8Mb RAM.

• 2Gb hard drive, 8-speed

CD-ROM, 8-bit tower format.

• 15" monitor, Windows 95.

Was £1499.

*Ask for details in-store.

Dixons Deal 97

£1399

FREE
WORKSTATION™

SAVE £100

DIXONS

There's a Great Deal going on

Save Money
on International
Phone Calls

India 49p
USA 10p
South Africa 36p
Australia 18p

Germany	16p	Pakistan	68p
France	16p	Bangladesh	72p
Japan	27p	Zimbabwe	

Why eco-friendly Prescott won't be getting on his bike

IN THE course of a busy day spent extolling the virtues of leaving the car at home in favour of greener forms of transport, John Prescott explained that one eco-friendly option was no longer open to him. The Deputy Prime Minister's bicycle has been stolen.

Mr Prescott had been on the radio in the morning explaining the need to improve the public transport system. He said that he intended to use his own car less and, to prove the point, he later leapt onto the Underground. During the journey, on which journalists had been invited to accompany him, he said that he had given up his Jaguar now that he had a government one which

Damian Whitworth joins the sweltering scrum on the London Underground as the Deputy Prime Minister revels in taking the press for a ride

came with a chauffeur. One wondered what he had done with his Jag. Was it now languishing in the garage? "Why?" he asked suspiciously. "Do you want to pinch it?" This was the first of a number of those Prescott answers that take the questioner completely by surprise and in which he specialises. He started to explain — "I only say that because last week someone broke

into the garage" — but then went off in a different direction. It wasn't until a cycling journalist accosted him later in the day that the full domestic saga came out.

"Are you a cyclist?" the man demanded of Mr Prescott. "I was until somebody broke into the house and pinched my bike last week," he replied.

Ears pricked up. "Actually it was my son's mountain bike. I'm not a

great user of bikes myself, but I did use it, occasionally."

What he insists he does regularly are buses, Tubes and trains. "I probably take more public transport than any other member of the Government," he said. He set out to prove it by taking the Tube from Westminster to South Kensington, where he was to address the Royal Geographical Society.

Just how spontaneous his Tube jaunts are open to question. I know he uses public transport because friends who live round the corner from him have seen him getting off the night bus in Clapham on the way to his London flat.

Sadly, now even this great inde-

pendent spirit is being tamed by the party machine. The Tube jaunt was arranged two weeks ago, a harassed press officer let slip.

Mr Prescott and the media scrum squeezed onto a train. He talked about the problems of changing for the Northern Line late at night at Victoria. "Is the last one still 12.20?" he asked a London Transport minister. "Sometimes you have to wait 20 minutes. That's the problem we have to deal with. My bus, the No 88, takes me from doorstep to doorstep but late at night you don't know whether you've missed the night bus or not and the last Tube has gone."

He had last used the Tube a week

ago. "It's damned warm down here," he said. He chatted cheerfully to passengers about transport policy. One man even managed to get a word in edgeways and ask where investment cash was going to come from. Mr Prescott raised his voice above the rattling train and explained his policy. After a couple of minutes of polished argument the man declared himself a convert.

On the Tube back to the office Mr Prescott was full of mischief. He maintained that John Major had approached him the other day in the Commons. "Because I'm in charge of rainwater he asked if I could do something to make sure it didn't rain during the cricket."

THE developers of a rapid transit system in Northampton say it combines the best elements of bus and light rail.

Their system uses environmentally friendly gas-powered rapid transit vehicles (RTVs), which travel at speeds of up to 50mph on a track along disused railway lines. Once in town, the RTVs run along the existing road network and use transponders to alert traffic lights to change in their favour.

The scheme aims to cut journey times in the town by half and to reduce reliance on private cars from 90 to 60 per cent of all journeys. It could be in place by 2000.

The system will not require public subsidy, but will be financed principally through contributions from developers who own land that would benefit from the service.

Alex Robinson, chief executive of Rapid Transport International, the private company behind the scheme, said that Northampton had one of the highest rates of car use per person in the country, making it ideal for the system.

The town also has an existing network of disused railway lines, which can be converted into special guideways, avoiding the need to widen existing roads or build new ones. Northampton Borough Council has still to grant planning permission for the scheme, but is supportive of it.

Labour promises to get motorists back on the buses

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS face higher taxes and more gruelling trips through British cities under plans to ration road space in favour of buses.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that the Government will be publishing a Transport White Paper next year on how to cut pollution, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and improve the quality of urban life. Central to the plan is increasing the "speed, efficiency and safety" of public transport. He also pledged to pump more investment into the London Underground.

Mr Prescott, the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions, said that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was studying taxes to

make using the car more costly and that his department was looking at re-regulating of city bus companies to bring them back under tighter local authority control.

The Government was determined to increase the number of people using buses. In some cities, such as London, buses were running at 25 per cent of capacity. "We have got to look at our existing capacity and use it more efficiently," he said. Cities such as Manchester and Sheffield were proving that people would switch from cars to public transport if they could rely on it.

Mr Prescott said "road rationing", in which the space available for private cars is squeezed to one lane through-

out cities to create extra bus lanes, was high on the agenda. He urged the public to judge his commitment to the environment and reforming public transport over the next five years on "whether the buses go faster". He added: "That means in some cases more regulation, in some cases more investment."

The Deputy Prime Minister was speaking at a meeting organised to mark World Environment Day. It comes in advance of a special General Assembly of the United Nations, dubbed Rio II, called to debate how far nations have implemented environmental agreements reached in Brazil five years ago.

The Government has pledged to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by 20 per cent by 2010. Officials say that half the cuts will have to come from transport, the fastest rising sector for emissions. Other areas include the reduction of energy consumption by homes and business.

Mr Prescott admitted that the Government's pledge to reduce VAT on domestic fuel went against its ambitious global warming targets. Officials estimate that the cut will increase emissions by 0.6 per cent. "It is a dilemma," he conceded, saying that they had to balance the needs of the poor and the pensioners with the needs of the environment.

The Deputy Prime Minister also signalled tougher green taxes on industry. "Environmental taxes can encourage industry to find cost-effective, innovative ways of reducing pollution," he said.

The Government would also at the special New York General Assembly be pressing nations hard to control pollution of the seas and protection of fish stocks. Mr Prescott, a trained diver, said: "The oceans are so important to the environment."

"If integration means simply making sure that the buses arrive at the station before the trains leave, then that seems fairly obvious," said Terence Bendixsen, an independent policy analyst. More effective would be a range of measures to encourage cycling, walking and the use of buses. Small steps could do much: making cycleways on roads rather than displacing pedestrians, encouraging park-and-ride schemes, helping bus companies to update their fleets.

"There is a hell of a lot that

can be done with buses," he said. "They are still the key to good public transport in cities."

He said that tax reforms would also do much to change habits. At least ten measures, ranging from cutting concessions on company cars to increasing petrol tax above the rate of inflation and making resident parking charges dependent on car size, could be introduced to encourage people to use public transport instead of cars.

Lynn Sloman, of Transport 2000, a lobby encouraging rail use, said Labour had also to change the "crazy" tax anomalies that encouraged car use, such as taxing any employees offered incentives to travel by bus or bicycle but allowing free, untaxed parking space at work.

Collect pounds, not points



Britain's only money back credit card

Unique in the UK — the NEW credit card from Alliance & Leicester gives you:
• money back on every purchase, every year
• double money back of up to 2% in 1997
• no annual fee — unlike many other credit cards
• up to 46 days interest-free credit
• low standard rates of 17.9% APR and 12.9% APR on transferred balances*

Earn money back — apply today

CALL FREE
0500 83 83 83

Lines open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

Quoting Ref. x ov.

**ALLIANCE
LEICESTER**

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

0800 152 123

Family likely to benefit again from electronic publishing deal for archive that cost the nation £13m

Churchill papers to go on sale as CD-Roms

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Churchill papers, bought by the nation two years ago with £13 million of lottery money, are to be put on CD-Rom for sale to the public in a move expected to reopen debate about the purchase price.

The papers were bought from a private family trust set up by Sir Winston Churchill in 1946 for the benefit of his heirs. Now the Churchill family is likely to benefit again, as the sale involved it retaining copyright in about a third of the papers in the archive.

Although the nation now owns all the papers, it will benefit only from royalties on state papers — about a third of the archive — which it already owns. Copyright to the other third is owned by the 3,000 authors of the various documents and letters.

Plans for the ambitious project, which are still to be completed, mean that the 1.5 million items held in the Sir Winston Churchill Archive

Trust at Cambridge will become widely available, including in libraries. But the electronic publishing deal — described as a copyright nightmare — has involved months of negotiation between the Churchill family, the Churchill Archive Trust, Primary Source Media, publishers in Reading, Southampton University and Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

The papers, in 3,000 boxes, relate to the whole of Churchill's life and range from tear-stained letters home to his

mother and his school reports to his notes for wartime speeches.

Proposals for the deal were put forward to the Sir Winston Churchill Archive trustees for their consideration last week.

Andreas Whitlam Smith, the chairman, said that, if they were acceptable, an announcement could be made by autumn.

Jim Wretham, head of copyright at HMSO, said the nation would benefit to the extent that HMSO will charge a licensing fee for the use of the Crown papers in which it has copyright and will derive a percentage royalty from the publishers' income.

Besides the family, however, the main beneficiaries are likely to be the publishing company and, to some extent, a team at Southampton University, which is putting the documents on to microfiche and digitising them for electronic use.

There are expected to be

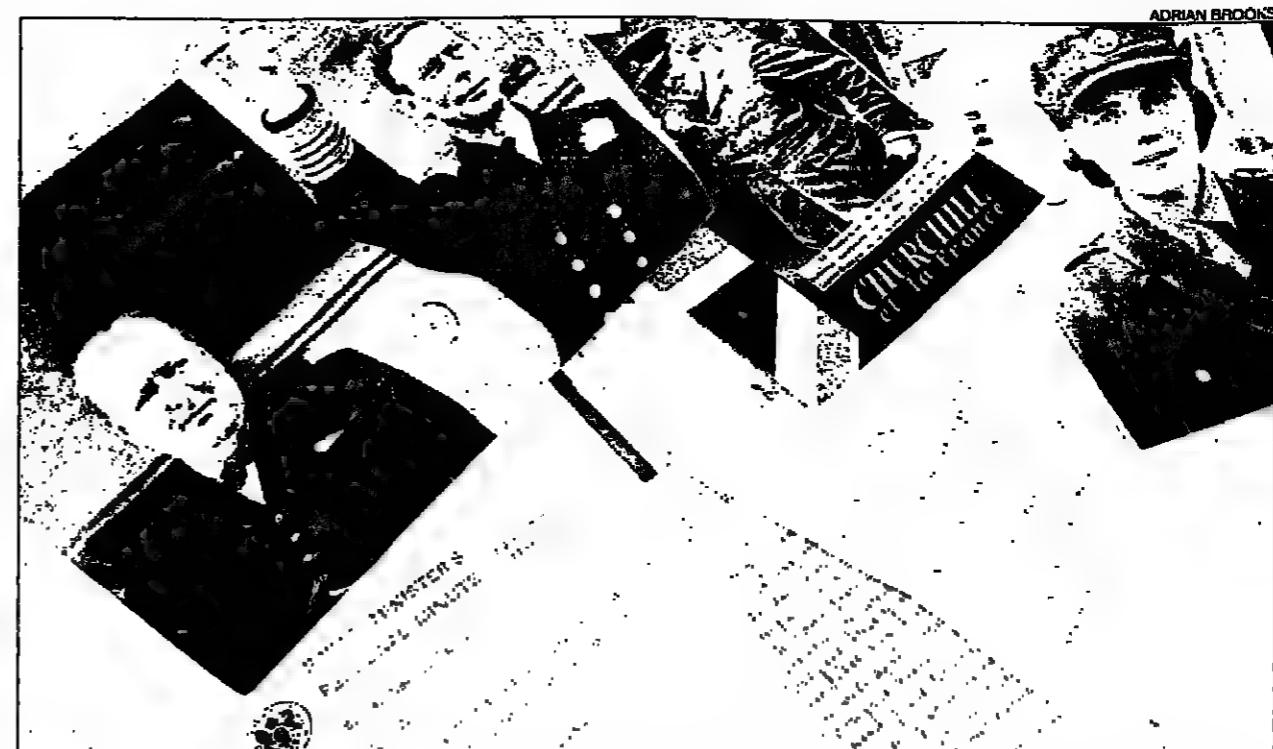
various levels of publication, from more scholarly CD-Roms for libraries, to ones aimed at the general public, containing those papers with most popular appeal.

No prices have yet been put forward, but Encarta, a popular CD-Rom encyclopaedia

from Microsoft, sells for £49.99.

Mr Wretham said the great advantage of the deal was that people, in particular researchers, would have easy access to documents which otherwise required painstaking examination.

At present anyone



Documents from the Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust, which will be more widely available on CD-Rom

from the Public Records Office museum between June and October last year. A further 2,000 saw the papers when they were made available at the John Rylands Library in Manchester runs until September.

An estimated 5,000 people saw the London exhibition in

Colditz prisoner's letters open a door on his life

BY JOHN SHAW

A BUNDLE of letters from an officer imprisoned at Colditz Castle during the Second World War has attracted the interest of historians.

The collection of more than 50 letters and postcards was acquired by the Norfolk Record Office from a book dealer who is believed to have obtained them during a house clearance. They detail the experiences of Lieutenant Geoffrey Ransom, from Holt, Norfolk, who later became an architect.

Dr John Albin, the county archivist, said yesterday: "These letters are the raw material of history, but they leave a lot of unanswered questions and we would like to know more about him to build up a complete picture."

Lieutenant Ransom's unit in the war is not known, but he was captured in 1940 and was held initially in Oflag 7C at Laufen. He was moved to the maximum security Colditz Castle in 1941 for unexplained reasons — probably an escape attempt — and stayed there until it was liberated in 1945.

The officer wrote home in August 1941: "I am still fit and cheerful. I have been here for three weeks now and have not regretted it once. The atmo-

sphere is quite different. Laufen was highly organised, but here, by comparison, we can do what we like." Dr Albin said the optimistic picture needed to be viewed through the screen of wartime censorship and the wishes of the prisoners to allay relatives' fears.

In another letter, he described the differences between prisoners. "The average age is about 25. No one wants quietness, order or peace and that does not seem to go down well with people when they get over 45."

As the war lengthened, the letters reflected the monotony of daily life. They brightened up D-Day. He wrote to his parents: "You can start steaming a Christmas pudding up. It looks very much as if I shall be with you to help you eat it."

Lieutenant Ransom married and went into practice in London after the war, but there the trail goes cold.

□ The posthumous Victoria Cross won by a Royal Navy petty officer at Gallipoli in 1915 is to be auctioned. Billy Williams, 35, accepted a place on the collier SS River Clyde as an able seaman so that he would be among the men who stormed the beaches.

IT STILL NEEDS
ALL THE FRIENDS
IT CAN GET.

The Road Traffic Reduction Bill has become law. Nirex has been denied planning permission. It is only the continuing support of our members which has enabled us to win these battles. Please join us today.

Yes, I'll join Friends of the Earth
□ £21 Membership and/or donation £ _____
I enclose a cheque/PO for £ _____ payable to Friends of the Earth, or please debit my Access/Visa/Mastercard no: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Exp date: _____ / _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss): _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Friends of the Earth
for the planet for people

Please post to Friends of the Earth, FREEPOST, SR48 Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX11 2YD
Credit card hotline 01822 482 297
AD0706001

France for free.

Free trip to France
for up to 3 days when
you buy any digital
mobile phone.

If you buy any digital mobile phone from your local BT Shop before June 28, and connect to Cellnet, we'll give you a voucher entitling you and up to four others to a free ferry trip to France any time within the next year.

With a range of handsets from as little as £9.99, BT Shops' expert staff can help you choose the phone and tariff to best suit your needs. Your peace of mind will be guaranteed by our 14-day exchange policy (simply return the phone in its original packaging).

Call into your nearest BT Shop and take advantage of this exclusive offer.



For details of your nearest BT Shop, call:
Freephone 0800 400 004

*Subject to a minimum 12 month airtime agreement with Cellnet. Excludes occasional callers. Occasional Caller Plus monthly subscription is £1250 per month by Direct Debit with a one-off connection fee of £35, subject to status. *Space on any sailing is subject to availability. Cabins are mandatory on night crossings (£10 per person).

Hague secures backing of supermarket chief

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTERS of Michael Howard's flagging leadership campaign claimed an important breakthrough yesterday when two of Stephen Dorrell's key lieutenants announced they were backing him.

As the battle for votes on the Centre-Right intensified, William Hague enlisted Archie Norman, the MP who transformed the Asda supermarket chain into a market leader. The executive of Huntingdon Conservative Association, whose MP is John Major, has also voted unanimously for Mr Hague.

But Peter Lilley appeared to have lost ground. The decision of David Faber, a grandson of Harold Macmillan, to go into the Howard camp was a serious blow for him. Mr Lilley's supporters had assumed Mr Faber was in the bag. Simon Burns, who was also one of Mr Dorrell's few supporters, has also joined Mr Howard.

John Redwood also secured two new valuable public endorsements, with the promise of more today. The fightback by the Centre Right came 24

hours after Kenneth Clarke scored a propaganda coup with the decision by Stephen Dorrell not to contest the leadership election.

Mr Howard also released the names of three further new supporters, including John Taylor, a former minister, and the veteran Eurosceptic Sir Richard Body. The former Home Secretary, who claimed he was in second place behind Mr Clarke, said: "I am confident that I can make up the gap before the end of this contest and beat Ken Clarke in the second or third ballot."

On top of Mr Norman's support for Mr Hague, David Prior and Tim Lawton, two newly elected MPs, also endorsed him.

Mr Norman, who wiped out Asda's £1 billion debt, is tipped as a future Tory leader. He will be asked to advise on the re-organisation of the Conservative Party machine. "I will be prepared to offer whatever help I can on party organisation to who ever wins the election," he said. "But I am convinced that the election of William Hague in its own

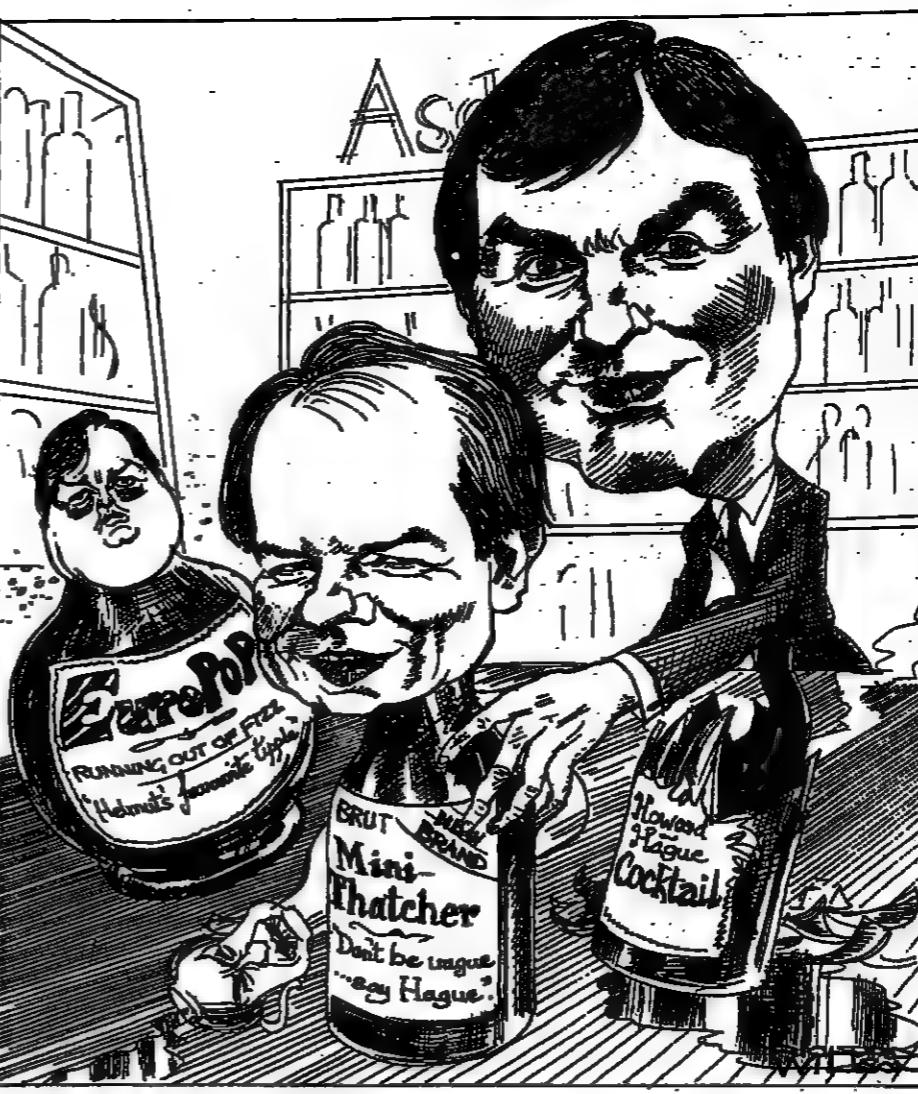
right would create real excitement and galvanise the party." Mr Hague will show off his prize signing at a high-powered breakfast meeting of industrialists this morning.

Meanwhile, Mr Redwood

won the backing yesterday of Nicholas Winterton, the veteran right-wing MP, and Andrew Robathan, who had been widely tipped to join the Hague campaign. Mr Robathan succeeded Nigel Lawson as MP for Blair, where constituency activists voted overwhelmingly for Mr Redwood after he appeared in a debate with the other candidates.

Mr Robathan said: "I was influenced by the constituency vote but I was looking for somebody with leadership potential. I think John Redwood has the potential to be a great leader."

As nominations closed yesterday for the first round on Tuesday, the issue of Europe once again provoked a renewed clash between Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood. Only days after suggesting that the single currency in future.



Labour is criticised over sale of Blair speech

By ANDREW PIERCE

COPIES of Tony Blair's speech on welfare reform have been sold to lobbyists to raise money for Labour Party funds. It was disclosed yesterday.

Tony Blair's speech, which was delivered on a roundabout in south London, was faxed from Downing Street to Labour Party headquarters. The party's corporate affairs department released the text on its commercial subscription service. The party, having fixed the speech to its clients, sent hundreds more by post the next day.

The commercial subscription service, set up by Labour 12 years ago, provides lobbyists, commercial companies, and charitable institutions with copies of party speeches and policy documents. Now that Labour is in government, the rules have changed. The party leadership is trying to decide what is party political material and what is categorised as government material.

The decision to put the speech on to the commercial subscription service was taken by Mary Bruce, the corporate relations officer. Lobbyists are among her biggest clients and are charged double the rate of charitable bodies.

Sir Archie Hamilton, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, said there should be an investigation.

A spokesman for the Labour Party said: "We will review what we provide to subscribers now that we are in government. In the past everything could go out but the boundaries will change."

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss the moves with members of Sir James Goldsmith's movement.

Alan Sked, the UKIP leader, is fiercely opposed to the move, which he believes will lead to his party being subsumed into the separate grouping. He believes instead that a truce should be called between the UKIP and the Referendum Party, whose members can join other political parties, so they can work together.

In an attempt to boost his followers, Dr Sked is holding his own rally at the London School of Economics on Saturday at exactly the same time as the breakaway forum in Hampstead.

IN PARLIAMENT

FACTION fighting has broken out within the UK Independence Party over plans to form a national umbrella organisation linking all anti-European groups, including the Referendum Party.

A breakaway group will this weekend hold a summit of 70 leading Eurosceptic figures at a hotel near Basingstoke to discuss

ES FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997
Labour is criticised over sale of Blair speech

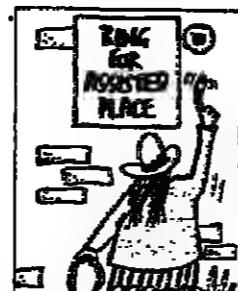
THE TIMES

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky on operation Rhinegold, the French and EMU
PAGE 31



EDUCATION

Will the abolition of assisted places end real choice?
PAGES 41



SPORT

Hingis summons final flourish to overcome Seles
PAGES 42-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997

BT school Net plan put back by Oftel action

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH Telecom and the Government cancelled a planned joint announcement yesterday on BT's plan to connect schools to the information superhighway after learning that Oftel, the telecoms regulator, had not yet approved the deal.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, and David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, were to reveal BT's plans to connect every school to the Internet at a public ceremony at a London school. Government sources said: "The announcement was to be the result of Labour's commitment, made at the 1995 party conference that, if elected, it would lift the ban that prevents BT from using its network to broadcast entertainment services. In exchange, BT agreed to connect schools, libraries, colleges and hospitals to the superhighway at no charge."

It is understood that BT learnt last week that Don Cruickshank, Oftel's Director-General, was not yet ready to approve BT's connections proposal on competition grounds. Government sources said the Education Department was surprised and somewhat angered by Mr Cruickshank's disclosure. As a result, the Vallance-Blunkett schools announcement was cancelled. BT declined to comment.

Mr Cruickshank yesterday confirmed that BT's proposal was under review and that competition issues were at the heart of the matter. He said: "We must ensure that schools get the services they need at the price they can afford. But we also need to make sure that they have a choice of services."

BT directed most of the price reductions at business customers because the business market has been under the greatest competitive threat.

The Education Department did not publicly reveal its disappointment that it and BT could not make their planned announcement. Mr Blunkett said that Oftel's decision to consult industry on BT's proposals and move as quickly as possible is "good news for schools and shows we are making real progress towards our ambitions for a National Grid for learning".

The Government is thought to be concerned that a lengthy review process will delay the schools' connections effort. It had hoped that the first schools would be connected to the Internet in time for the autumn term.

Oftel is concerned that BT may have an unfair advantage because its network is so much

more extensive than that of the cable companies. Oftel also wants to compare the prices that BT may charge for access to any services. BT's pricing formula is thought to be similar to the cable companies' £1 per pupil proposal.

BT and the cable companies do not want to connect schools out of pure altruism. They realise, as Mr Cruickshank noted, that children, if exposed to their products and services, are likely to become loyal future customers.

In a separate development, figures released yesterday by Oftel reveal that the majority of residential consumers have derived little benefit from almost £2 billion of British Telecom price cuts since the early 1990s.

BT, under an Oftel-imposed price-cutting formula, has been reducing overall prices between £400 million and £500 million a year since 1991-92. But the company, which is free to choose where the price cuts are implemented, has ensured that its business customers received most of the benefits.

Some 80 per cent of the 22.6 million residential customers saw their bills decline by only 1 per cent, before adjustments for inflation, since 1991-92. Their average quarterly bill, including line-rental charges, is now £44. The highest spenders in the residential market derived the most benefit from the price cuts. Their bills fell by almost 20 per cent over the five-year period, taking their average quarterly bill to £130. By comparison business customers are estimated to have seen bills fall 40 per cent.

BT directed most of the price reductions at business customers because the business market has been under the greatest competitive threat.

The traffic figures issued

Channel Tunnel passenger figures prompt City concern

BY JASON NISSE

THE City is increasingly concerned about the £4.4 billion refinancing of Eurotunnel and the planned £1 billion flotation of London & Continental Railways after passenger figures for May indicated both could miss traffic targets included in the Eurotunnel restructuring document only last week.

Any delay to next year's flotation of LCR, which runs the Eurostar train and is backed by Richard Branson's Virgin Group as well as London Electricity and SBC Warburg, will put back the construction of the fast link to the tunnel, jeopardising Eurotunnel's long-term prospects. The link will need £4 billion of private finance expected to be raised through a £1 billion float and £3 billion loan from banks.

The traffic figures issued

yesterday by Eurotunnel show that 491,000 people travelled on Eurostar last month, a 15 per cent increase on May last year, making a total of 2.18 million people taking the train through the tunnel this year.

The "downside case" traffic projections in the Eurotunnel prospectus, provided by SNCF, of France, show Eurostar needing to carry 6.7 million people this year to meet targets, a 37 per cent increase over 1996.

Yesterday City analysts said they doubted this figure could be met, even though three additional Eurostar trains will operate on the route from next month. "It depends on how good a summer they have, but it looks like they will be lucky to get much more than six million passengers this year."

said a leading Eurotunnel follower.

In the short term Eurotunnel receives a minimum usage payment from LCR whatever the traffic figures. However, a condition imposed by the banks on the £4.4 billion refinancing of Eurotunnel's debt is that it meets the traffic target included in the prospectus.

In addition, LCR may find it difficult to float next year if traffic figures fall short. A spokeswoman for LCR said that it was on target for a flotation next spring.

"The important figures to focus on are the yield from the passengers," she said, "and we do not release those figures."

Eurotunnel shares fell 1p to 63p yesterday, matching an all-time low.

Simon rallies support for single market

A NEW report co-authored by Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, yesterday called on member states to concentrate on completing the single market (Alasdair Murray writes).

The report says that the failure to finish the single market is harming competitiveness in Europe. It says, "should not let the political debate over monetary union 'obscure' the benefits of a single market."

It adds that the single market is becoming overburdened with legislation, while some sectors, such as energy and telecoms, have not yet been sufficiently liberalised.

Market focus, page 28
Commentary, page 29
Economic View, page 31

Markets expect to see base rate rise

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND PHILIP BASSETT

FINANCIAL markets are poised for interest rates to rise today, despite retail sales figures out yesterday showing slower high street growth last month.

The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee began its inaugural monthly meeting yesterday afternoon. A conclusion is expected by lunchtime today. Most economists believe the Bank will use its new powers to raise rates in quarter point to 6.5 per cent.

The stock market could also be unsettled today by strong US employment data, which would point to a rise in rates soon in America.

But the distributive trade figures, produced by the Confederation of British Industry, showed retail sales growth halving in May to its lowest level since October 1995.

The net balance of retailers

reporting a rise in the volume of their sales fell back sharply, from 42 per cent in April to 21 per cent last month. Most sectors, with the exception of groceries and durable household goods, saw sales slow. Furniture retailers and footwear sellers reported a fall in sales.

But the quarterly figures pointed to continued growth in sales and the CBI said businesses remained optimistic about the short term.

Sudhir Junankar, associate director of economic analysis at the CBI, said the data coupled with the prospects of tax rises in next month's Budget meant that "interest rates can be left on hold for the moment". But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said most of the data published in the past month pointed to a base-rate rise today.

Court overturns VAT ruling

BY JASON NISSE

THE European Court has handed the financial services industry a £300 million a year boost by overturning a controversial VAT ruling brought by the Danish tax authorities.

The Advocate-General had supported the decision to force Danish banks to pay VAT on contracted-out services such as cheque processing or payment clearing. This ruling would have cost banks and insurance groups in the EU dearly as most financial services are zero-rated for VAT, so the banks could not claim the money back. VAT on contracted-out services would have cost over £300 million.

However, yesterday the court threw out the Advocate-General's ruling.

Nationwide 'carpetbaggers' state their case



Boarding party: Andrew Martin, left, George Jones and Michael Hardern

By NATHAN YATES

DISSIDENT members of the Nationwide Building Society yesterday launched their campaign to be elected to its board, in a move that could spell the beginning of the end for mutual building societies.

The members, spearheaded by Michael Hardern, a seasoned "carpetbagger", are pledged to force through the conversion of the Nationwide into a plc and give qualifying customers a bonus of about £1,000. After the flotation of the Halifax, the Nationwide is Britain's biggest building society, with assets worth nearly £40 billion. The current board

is committed to retaining its mutual status.

If elected, the five pro-conversion campaigners will implement a radical programme of reforms which would include takeover bids for the remaining top 20 mutuals. Mr Hardern predicted that his programme would unleash a bidding war for smaller societies that would wipe out mutual ownership.

Campaigning under the slogan "if you want £1,000 vote for us", Mr Hardern proposed a restructuring of the society's existing business, with a move towards telephone services

and closure of some branches. The "Members for Conversion" action group has sent 25,000 free "Carpetbaggers' Guides" to Nationwide members, and more than 1,000 individuals have made donations to the campaign.

A Nationwide spokesman said the dissidents are not "suitably qualified" to run a large institution. They include a retired undertaker, a computer specialist, a management consultant, and a secretary. Mr Hardern is a freelance butler.

City Diary, page 31



Morse.
Computer Systems for the Enterprise.

WOOD FLOOR DIFFERENCE

THE FREE SURVEY AND QUOTE
HOME CONSULTATION

DSTOCK

WE ARE A MEMBER OF THE
MORSE GROUP

Simon urges EU to focus on single market

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EUROPE should concentrate on completing the single market and not let the political debate over monetary union "obscure" its benefits, a report co-authored by Lord Simon of Highbury claimed yesterday.

Lord Simon, the former chairman of BP, has recently been appointed Minister for Trade and Competitive-ness in Europe, suggesting the report's analysis could provide the blueprint for government action.

The working group, which was

chaired by Lord Sheppard of Didgemere, gave warning that work on the single market must be completed if Europe is not to lose competitiveness. The report highlighted areas ranging from protected sectors to the application of competition law across the EU that Europe still needs to tackle to finish the single market project.

The "Sheppard Inquiry" received immediate backing from the Confederation of British Industry. Adair Turner, the Director General, said: "We must have a single market that

really works if Europe is successfully to tackle its twin problems of low growth and high unemployment."

The report finds that single market legislation has often become burdensome for business, while enforcement has been uneven. "Subsidarity, health and safety and environmental regulations" have become "frequently used weapons" to block our foreign competition, while in some sectors single market legislation is in danger of "suffocating" business.

But the Sheppard Inquiry also finds that a lack of legislation in some

areas, especially in the energy, telecoms, transport and financial services sectors, is preventing the creation of a single market.

A single currency could also play an important part in eliminating distortions in the single market, but the report adds: "it is not a pre-condition for its further development", and should not "obscure the economic benefits of a fully developed single market".

The Sheppard Inquiry concludes that there is a need to "rekindle the evangelical fervour" with which the

single market was launched in 1992 and outlines measures to put the project back on track. State aid, subsidies and price controls, which are distorting markets such as pharmaceuticals, should be removed, while competition needs to be introduced into the energy, telecoms and financial services sectors. Other barriers to an efficient single market — and especially to labour mobility — also need to be examined.

Commentary, page 29
Economic View, page 31

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Foster's aims to sell Inntrepreneur stake

FOSTER'S BREWING said it would consider any offers for its half stake in Inntrepreneur, the British pub chain. Ted Kunkel, chief executive, said: "We have made no secret of the fact that Inntrepreneur is no longer a core business for us. We do get offers from time to time for different assets and we consider them." Inntrepreneur is jointly owned by Grand Metropolitan, which is in the process of merging with Guinness.

Foster's, the Australian brewer, is to buy back in the 13 per cent stake held by Asahi, the Japanese brewer, for A\$625 million (£290 million). Meanwhile, Broken Hill Proprietary will place 31.4 per cent of Foster's with an investment bank and an Australian broker. The sale could raise about A\$1.5 billion. BHP's remaining 5.1 per cent stake will be made available to its shareholders after October 5 in a separate offer for those who wish to continue with a Foster's holding. BHP will take a book gain on the main sale of its shares of about A\$75 million.

Sears settles tax dispute

SEARS has reached a settlement with the Inland Revenue over a protracted dispute concerning the retail group's tax treatment of its sale of William Hill, the betting shop chain. The Revenue, which had been claiming more than £80 million in unpaid tax, has agreed that Sears should pay £750,000. David Defty, finance director, said that the Revenue had agreed to pay back about £1.5 million in tax to Sears in settlement of other matters, so that the net effect should be "a small profit".

NU grey price slips

SHARES in Norwich Union, the mutual life insurer due to float on the stock market on June 16, are currently being quoted at 334p to 344p according to City Index, the financial bookmaker. The price has risen by more than 10 per cent since trading started in the unofficial grey market at 310p on June 3. City Index reported receiving 400 to 500 calls about the insurer in that time. Norwich Union's most recent forecast for the opening price is 240p to 290p. City Index said the stock had slipped from a high of 355p to 365p on Wednesday.

News Ltd appointment

LACHLAN MURDOCH has been appointed chairman of News Ltd, the Australian subsidiary of The News Corporation, which is the parent company of *The Times*. Mr Murdoch takes up his new responsibilities on July 1. The appointment follows the recent announcement of Ken Cowley's decision to step down as executive chairman of News Ltd. Mr Murdoch, 25, has been managing director of News Ltd since September 1996. He joined the board in September 1995.

Denby issues warning

SHARES in Denby Group, the furniture and furnishings group, fell 25p to 222.5p after Ray Way, chairman, said current trading was being affected by the sluggish conditions in the UK tableware market and the strength of sterling. The company reported a 15.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.5 million on sales up 15 per cent to £10.3 million for the six months to March 31. Earnings rose 13 per cent to 7p and the total dividend rises 15 per cent to 1.55p. Mr Way adds he is confident of progress for the year as a whole.

WH Smith in lease deal

WH SMITH, the retail group, has sold and leased back 14 high street shops, raising £55 million. The deal with British Gas pensions trust will be used to reduce group debt and provide finance for investment. The properties will be leased back for a total initial annual rent of £3 million. There will be five-year rent reviews on the 15-year leases. Bill Cockburn, chief executive, said that the move would further strengthen the company's balance sheet. Since January last year, the group has raised more than £235 million from disposals.

Airsprung rises 27%

AIRSPRUNG FURNITURE, the bed, furniture and upholstery manufacturer raised pre-tax profits 27.4 per cent to £6.9 million on sales up from £8.3 million to £8.8 million. Earnings per ordinary share rise 25.2 per cent to 17.4p. The total dividend rises 18.5 per cent to 6.4p. John Pierce, chief executive, said: "I am delighted that this year's strong profit vindicates the strategy to concentrate on our core businesses." The beds division, the main influence on group profits, has expanded current facilities to meet increased demand.

Avesco plans expansion

AVESCO, the supplier of giant outdoor video screens for sports stadiums and concert tours, said it intends to make at least two acquisitions in North America and continental Europe this year in an effort to grow the company by 50 per cent more. Last year it paid \$1.3 million for a 25 per cent stake in BCC, a US rival; and it now controls roughly 40 per cent of the global market for giant screens. Pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 rose 76 per cent to £3.15 million. On turnover of £20.8 million, up 20 per cent. A final dividend of 3p makes a 5p total, up 25 per cent.

The GP Group

THE GP GROUP has asked us to make it clear that General Practice Investment Corporation (GPI), a subsidiary that provides development and investment services to health authorities, community trusts and doctors, has no connection with Government Purchasing Index — which is also known as GPI — which was wound up by the High Court on public interest grounds earlier this week after an inquiry by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Boots offers pre-Budget payout of £400m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS will pay a special dividend worth £400 million to shareholders next week and has held out the prospect of further payouts in the future.

The swift payment of the special dividend, which is of 44.2p per share and will be paid on June 13, means it cannot be affected by any tax changes in the July 3 Budget.

Lord Blyth, chief executive, said that the method for future payouts could depend on Budget measures. "If ACT is abolished then buybacks will become attractive again."

Boots carried out two buybacks in November 1994 for £51 million and in June last for £300 million. It chose to do a special dividend this time because of tax changes introduced last year relating to gearing of 10.5 per cent.

It is planning to open about 40 Boots the Chemists and 40 Halfords outlets each year. This will cost an annual £70 million and create 5,000 new jobs by the year 2000.

Lord Blyth said that Do It All, the DIY chain formerly co-owned by WH Smith, lost £6.9 million before exceptionalities, but should be cash positive in the current year and go into profit next year. He said it could become a core business if it continued to improve, but he did not rule out selling it.

Plans to open Boots the Chemist stores in Japan have been thrown into doubt because of difficulties finding a partner there. Lord Blyth said alternatives included the Middle East, Brazil, Malaysia and Taiwan. First openings in Thailand and The Netherlands are due within weeks.

Preparing the company's systems for the year 2000 is likely to cost up to £10 million, while preparing for a Euro single currency could cost up to £20 million.

Boots is paying a final dividend of 14.3p (12.8p), payable on August 22, giving a total for the year of 64.7p (58.5p).

Commentary, page 29

Sainsbury's Bank to offer loans

SAINSBURY'S BANK will be offering personal loans from next Monday, in an expansion of the supermarket's financial services division launched in February (Anne Ashworth writes).

The bank, a joint venture with Bank of Scotland, has already attracted £350 million from 225,000 customers to its savings account. Savers receive 5.75 per cent, currently a better-than-average rate, especially for smaller balances.

Loans of up to £4,999 will have an annual percentage rate of 13.7 per cent, while those between £5,000 and £15,000 will be charged at 12.7 per cent — below high street bank rates.



The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets. Pictured left to right back are Sir Alan Budd, Ian Plenderleith, Charles Goodhart, Willem Buiter and front Howard Davies, Eddie George and Mervyn King

CU to pay compensation over Pep mortgages

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION has been fined £95,000 and is to pay compensation of £84,000 to customers who were sold high-charging personal equity plan mortgages even though their house sales fell through.

The Pep mortgages had start-up charges that swallowed up to 50 per cent of the first year's premiums, compared with ordinary Pep plans that charge about 5 per cent.

The sales took place between April 1990 and July

1995, after which the Pep, known as the Taxsave Homemaker Personal Equity Plan, was discontinued. The customers had been sold the Taxsave Homemaker Pep while trying to buy a home, but when the sale fell through they continued with it, even though it was an unsuitable investment because it was directly linked to a mortgage.

Ninety-four customers will receive an average £844 each, either in the form of returned premiums plus interest, or cash and units in another Pep.

INNRO, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, imposed the fine on Commercial Union Trustees Ltd (CUTL), a fund management company owned by CU.

Gordon Harpin, director of CUTL, said he regretted the mistake, but added that some of the sales staff involved had left the company. Those who remained would not be disciplined or retrained, he said.

Construction orders show 2% decline

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

NEW construction orders declined in the three months to the end of April with the private housing and infrastructure sectors particularly hard hit, according to data published yesterday.

Orders declined by 2 per cent overall in the three months to April 30, but were 8 per cent ahead of the same period last year. The Department of the Environment said that orders improved "sharply" in April, with industrial and private commercial sectors enjoying their highest levels of new orders for a year.

Private housing orders declined by 23 per cent in the three months to the end of April and were only 3 per cent above the levels recorded in the same period last year. Infrastructure orders declined by a quarter.

But public non-housing orders, private commercial and industrial orders all showed strong growth.

Emap in talks to sell magazines

EMAP is in talks with a former executive of its business services side, who left abruptly three months ago, about selling him 14 magazines for a price believed to be in excess of £25 million (Jason Nissé writes).

Simon Timm, former director of Emap Finance & Freight,

is trying to finalise finance to buy the 14 titles, including *Press Gazette*, *Media Week* and *Meat Trades Journal*. The magazines have a total turnover of £15 million but are not believed to make much profit. Mr Timm is working on the deal from a central

London office owned by Emap, Robin Miller, managing director, confirmed he hoped to complete a deal soon.

Venture capitalists have been approached to back the transaction but none is believed to have signed up.



Harman: important step

Harman plans pension split at divorce

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Government announced yesterday that it plans to introduce a new law allowing divorcing couples to split their pensions at the point of divorce.

The new Act, which is expected to be brought in by 2000, was announced by Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, who is also the Minister for Women. She said: "I will introduce pension-sharing for divorcing couples. This is an important step towards meeting the Government's objectives of improving the income of women in retirement." She added that pension-splitting at divorce would prevent many retired women from facing poverty.

Ms Harman said that 70 per cent of the two million people aged above 60 who are dependent on income support are women. The draft Bill will be produced during

the current session with a view to meeting the April 2000 target for introduction of the new law. The Government plans to consult with the pensions industry, family lawyers and others who have been campaigning for this change.

At present, the courts cannot divide pension rights between divorcing couples. They have the power to offset pensions against other assets such as property, or they can earmark pensions so that maintenance can be paid when the scheme member retires. The new legislation could affect the 150,000 couples who divorce each year. Ms Harman pointed out that, according to 1991 figures, only 3.9 million women belonged to an occupational pension scheme compared with 6.8 million men. The money women earn from occupational schemes is also less

than men — £22 a week compared with £67. Although the Secretary of State hailed the announcement as a move that would benefit women in the main, the measures could also benefit divorced men whose wives are the principal earners.

Sallie Quin, head of Fairshares, an organisation that has been campaigning for divorced women, said: "We welcome the move from the Labour Government but we will have to look at the detail."

The Act will aim to tackle some of the problems of the pensions "earmarking" arrangements introduced by the Conservative Government two years ago. Under these arrangements, payments to an estranged wife will dry up if the former husband dies. If the former wife remarries she will also lose her pension entitlement.

Comments, page 29

If you're a frequent flyer, this Card takes you further.



The British Airways Diners Club Card offers the richest Air Miles awards scheme of any charge card in the UK:

- Earn 1 Air Miles award for every £5 spent with British Airways and for every £10 spent on other purchases
- 300 bonus Air Miles awards when you join
- Automatic membership of the British Airways Executive Club
- Designed specifically for business travel with no pre-set spending limit

Annual fee and certain exclusions apply.

Diners Club International[®]
Executive Club[®]
British Airways

To receive full details and to apply for the Card

CALL US FREE ON

0800 00 10 10

Quoting Ref: 5968/C

For complete and return this coupon to: Diners Club International, FIREPOST 811553, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 5ZV

British Airways Executive Club Number (if applicable) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Post code _____

Date _____

300 bonus Air Miles awards

100% of 1st 1000 miles

AIR MILES and the Flying Boat logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International Holdings N.V. AIR MILES cards are held and issued for use subject to AIR MILES Customer Terms and Conditions. © Registered mark of Diners Club International, New York. Credit Card Diners Club Europe is a division and trading style of Citibank International PLC. Registered in England No. 108221

* aims to sell
entrepreneur stake

settles tax dispute

key price slips

Ltd appointment

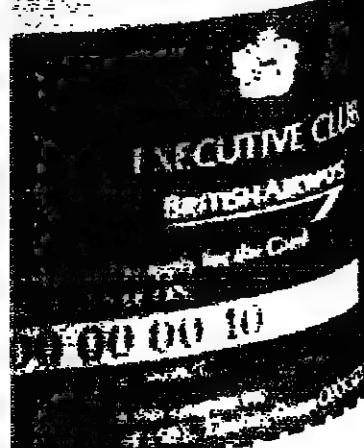
issues warning

with in leased

ung rises 27%

plans expansion

P Group



Europe can succeed as a single market without a single currency. This timely reminder of what many simple souls had always assumed comes from yet another think tank, the Action Centre for Europe. As with so many worthy organisations, the chairman of ACE is the ubiquitous Lord Sheppard of Digemere, a man who appears terminally addicted to committees. Yet the thoughts of this particular tank may carry more weight than most since one highly involved member was David Simon, the former BP chairman who has been catapulted into the House of Lords and a new job in Government.

The few rubs of the eraser have removed Lord Simon's name from prominence in the report but that diplomatic gesture does not lessen his contribution, nor its importance. As the new Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, he is actually in a position to turn the ACE ideas into action.

While the increasingly farcical debate over a single currency has waned, attention has wandered from the single market ideal that was at the root of most businessmen's enthusiasm for Europe. Five years ago, the talk was all of barriers being brought tumbling down; today, many of those barriers are still standing. Exporters to Europe still find their efforts hampered by regulatory road blocks, while different product specifications can

cause havoc in certain sectors. Chancellor Gordon Brown, realising that the EMU issue is degenerating into chaos, has already tried to focus attention back on the concept of a single market: perhaps he has been on the receiving end of a gentle nudging from his new ministerial colleague. But bringing down barriers requires more than a slug with a sledgehammer. As the ACE report so delicately puts it: "We should not forget that belief in free trade and open markets is by no means universal, and in some European countries the cultural tradition leans towards state intervention and protection."

In other words, the French remain of the view that their companies take priority in any given situation. When George Simpson ventured to suggest that GEC might bid for Thomson he was just having fun.

But there have already been benefits to Britain from the loosening of trade barriers, hence the increasing proportion of our exports which stay within Europe. Much more could be achieved, ACE calls for a re-examination of proposals for a European Company Statute, although it wants to preserve the

diversity of company formats in Europe, not straight jacket UK companies into the two-tier boards beloved of Germany.

Rightly, the businessmen behind ACE want to be left to run their companies in the way they think best while enjoying the benefits of a free trade area. A single currency need not complicate the equation. Lord Simon will be doing well if he can persuade the Government to concentrate on achieving that.

Blyth spirit at work in Boots

Boots is at its best when not trying to be exciting. Shareholders have every reason to appreciate chief executive Lord Blyth's tacit admission that the company is not about to embark on any major adventures for the time being and that it therefore makes sense to pay a £400 million special

dividend to the people who own the business.

Slipping in the payment ahead of the July Budget must count as a pretty slick move, too. Although the objection in principal to retrospective taxation is being brushed aside to accommodate the windfall tax on utilities, payouts to shareholders are unlikely to be clobbered in similarly retrospective fashion.

The payout enhances Boots's performance, which now ranks it fourth in the league for returns to shareholders: since April last year it has returned £900 million to investors.

At the same time, the business it has continued to grow. The company which this week announced an environmentally conscious plan to hand out free bicycles to those of its staff prepared to give up their car parking spaces at work, is more in tune with the mood of the market place than its long established name may suggest.

Boots the Chemist has sprung up its stores and happily whipped the best ideas from Anita Roddick and anyone else who knows about selling cosmetics and toiletries. And while it still feels it has plenty of scope to grow in the UK, it is also not giving up on the international market. The Netherlands and Thailand are about to become beneficiaries of Jesse Boots's legacy.

When gradually building on that legacy, Boots is at its best. It is when it experiences the occasional wish to splash out in new directions that trouble can occur: Childrens World and Do It All were just such aberrations.

Storehouse is now struggling to make the Childrens World format a success but Boots has persisted doggedly with Do It All and even that now seems to be coming right. Its partner in what was a joint venture, WH Smith, decided to back out and paid Boots to take the problem away.

Now, with the business heading towards profit, it is clear that Boots had the better of the deal.

Lord Blyth reasoned that an upturn in the DIY market must come eventually, and so it has. Which means that he will relish all the more the next cheque for £10 million due to reach him soon from the rather less smug chaps at WH Smith.

City should feel chill windfall

Sir Bob Horton approaches battles with relish. His style may not have endeared him to all his former colleagues at BP, who found the smooth Lord Simon more to their taste, but in the United States he went down a wow, even with the unions, which could appreciate his punchiness. So there was little likelihood that he would be making any concessions to the sensibilities of the Government yesterday when he unveiled the Railtrack profits and accompanying bonus for staff.

As far as he is concerned, the Railtrack performance is laudable, with investment running way ahead of anything for which the regulator might have been a doddle after Tesco.

hoping. The stock market loved it, with the shares soaring ahead to levels destined to incense the meanies who do not like to see investors enjoying such easy pickings.

Those investors may be benefiting from Sir Bob's efforts, coupled with obliging weather conditions, which apparently boosted profitability. They are also, undoubtedly, reaping the rewards of Railtrack being sold too cheaply by a Government that was fearful that it would be hard to give away shares in a railway company that does not own trains. Only time has demonstrated quite how severely under-priced so many privatisations were. The error is the essence of the Government's planned windfall tax. Perhaps the City advisers who reaped rich rewards from floating the businesses at giveaway prices should be called on for a contribution.

Captain's innings

LORD MACLAURIN will put in his final appearance as chairman of Tesco today, and should hear some handsome plaudits. He has transformed the business and bows out leaving the competition looking sorely beaten. Already, it seems, he has set about achieving similar results with English cricket. The secret, he says, is all about man-management. Which means that cricket, with 11 members to the team, should be a doddle after Tesco.

Mowlem pays £4.5m for float

By PAUL DURMAN

JOHN MOWLEM's stock market flotation of a minority stake in SGB, the construction group's scaffolding business, has cost £4.5 million in advisers' fees — more than 8 per cent of the £55.1 million being raised.

Stephen Yapp, SGB's finance director, said the high level of expenses reflected the scaffolding group's complexity and its numerous overseas subsidiaries. He said lawyers and accountants also had to do a lot of work checking SGB's agreements with Mowlem, which is retaining a 51 per cent stake.

After expenses, Mowlem will receive £18.9 million from the shares it is selling in placing. SGB's shares were priced at 150p each, valuing the company at £125 million.

Mowlem will receive a further £70 million or so when

SGB repays its debt to its parent. SGB will fund this payment with the £31.7 million it will receive from the share placing, and £40 million of borrowings.

Bob Stokell, SGB's chief executive, said the placing was 30 per cent oversubscribed by institutional investors, and suggested this should encourage a lively market debut for the company when dealings begin on June 25. Mr Stokell and his fellow directors have invested about £250,000 in the placing shares.

Giving SGB greater independence is intended to help to improve its performance. SGB, which employs 4,000 people in 20 countries, made a pre-tax profit of £13.9 million.

Mowlem intends to use the receipts from the transaction to redeem its expensive £50 million Eurobond.

Pilkington reviews future of troubled European offshoots

By PAUL DURMAN

PAULO SCARONI, the new chief executive of Pilkington, is reviewing whether the glass manufacturer should persevere with the 220 double-glazing firms, cutting shops and other "downstream" operations it owns in Europe.

Mr Scaroni fears many of the downstream companies, often local companies, are too small to be managed effectively. He also doubts whether Pilkington should own such businesses, which are often competing with customers of the group's main float glass operation.

The downstream review, which is expected to take six months, looks likely to over-

turn the strategy pursued under Roger Leverton, who was replaced as chief executive two weeks ago. Mr Leverton believed the downstream businesses should dampen the peaks and troughs of the highly cyclical glass industry. Weak prices in Europe were the main reason for a slump in Pilkington's underlying pre-tax profits last year, from £212 million to £132 million.

However, the company's problems were exacerbated rather than diminished by its downstream operations, many of which lost money. Mr Scaroni said: "Most of them have been in trouble in the last year or so."

Although Pilkington had issued a profits warning, the results prompted analysts to cut this year's profit forecasts by about £20 million, to £120 million-£125 million. The company's shares slipped another 7p to 117p, far from their 207.5p autumn peak. Weak glass prices in Europe caused operating profits in the building products division to halve, from £161 million to £80 million — UK prices fell by 8 per cent, while German prices fell by 20 per cent.

The automotive division performed better, increasing its profits from £68 million to £91 million. However, the £40 million cost of the previously announced restructuring of the European automotive glass business was the main contributor to a £55 million exceptional charge that cut pre-tax profits to £77 million. Group sales were 3 per cent higher at £2.9 billion. Automotive sales rose by 12 per cent to £1.3 billion.

Pilkington intends to pay a final dividend of 3.25p on August 15, maintaining the total payout at 5p a share.

Tempus, page 30

Benchmark seeks £119m to buy properties

By CARL MORTISHED

BENCHMARK, the central London property specialist, is raising £119 million in a rights issue to finance the purchase of a portfolio from Friends Provident for £82 million, and to acquire Wool House, near Pall Mall, from Chelsfield for £8 million.

The one-for-one share issue at 200p per share, combined with the property purchases, will leave Benchmark with pro forma net assets of £232 million and a net asset value per share of 193p.

The Friends Provident purchase is the second Benchmark has struck with the insurer. Last October it spent £113 million buying properties from Friends Provident. The share issue is being supported by the insurer, which owns 35 per cent of Benchmark and the Hong Leong Group Malaysia, which has 34 per cent.

Benchmark will spend a further £43 million redeveloping Wool House, which is being acquired on an 89-year lease to the Crown Estate.

Nigel Kempner, joint managing director of Benchmark, expects the completed value of Wool House to be about £95 million on the basis of rental income at £50-£55 per sq ft.

Benchmark will seek to secure an extension of the Crown Estate lease to 125 years and develop 98,000 sq ft of offices and 14,000 sq ft of residential accommodation.

The Friends Provident portfolio comprises 11 properties in the City and West End of London, with total rental income of £6 million, an initial yield of 7.4 per cent.

Hambro Insurance looks for growth

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

HINTS that Hambro Insurance Services (HIS) might raise its dividend for the first time in three years failed to lift the company's share price yesterday. It ended 2p down at 80.1p. The shares have found little favour with the City recently.

However, Nicholas Page, managing director, said he expected the company to show future growth. "Our long-term aim is dividend cover of two times and we hope to be reviewing the dividend favourably," he said.

HIS reported pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 of £10.9 million, down slightly from the previous year's figure of £11 million. Earnings per share were 9.4p, down from 10p, and the dividend was held at 5.5p.

Mr Page said the pre-tax profit figure for 1996-97 had been adversely affected by the strength of sterling. Christopher Sporborg, chairman, said the results were "very encouraging given the much lower impact of exceptional weather related claims".

HIS is to create 130 new jobs at its claims handling unit, Cunningham Select, following an agreement with Royal & SunAlliance.



Christopher Sporborg said the results were very encouraging

score!watch

12:36

CRICKET

England v Australia

First Test (day 1)

England:

107 for 0, 21.1 overs

www.beeb.com

Follow every ball of The Ashes by opening the free score!watch window on your computer

[the score!](http://www.beeb.com)

sports news... results... previews... features... personalities... facts...

beeb@the BBC

THE SUNDAY TIMES

HOWZAT

FOR A GREAT WEEKEND OF SPORT

ALL THE ACTION OF THE ASHES,
DERBY, TOURNOI DE FRANCE
AND THE BRITISH LIONS TOUR,
PLUS MUCH MORE

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

BAe shares lift off with new Eurofighter hopes

BRITISH AEROSPACE appears to be back in favour with City investors. The price climbed 21p to £12.73 amid growing relief that the European fighter project will not only be saved, but may even go ahead on time.

This follows talks between the various governments involved in the project, including Germany, which had been threatening to withhold funding as part of its cost-cutting measures designed to meet the single currency criteria.

Two big securities firms are now singing the group's praises, including Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the company's own broker. It has raised its profit forecast for the current year from £550 million to £575 million and for next year round by £25 million to £665 million.

NatWest Securities also reckons BAe looks attractive and believes there is still plenty to go for. It has raised its target prices as part of a major review to £15.92. Almost 1.5 million shares have changed hands by the close.

Relief at a successful conclusion to the Eurofighter project also lifted Smiths Industries 71p to 7701p, and Rolls-Royce 51p to 2431p.

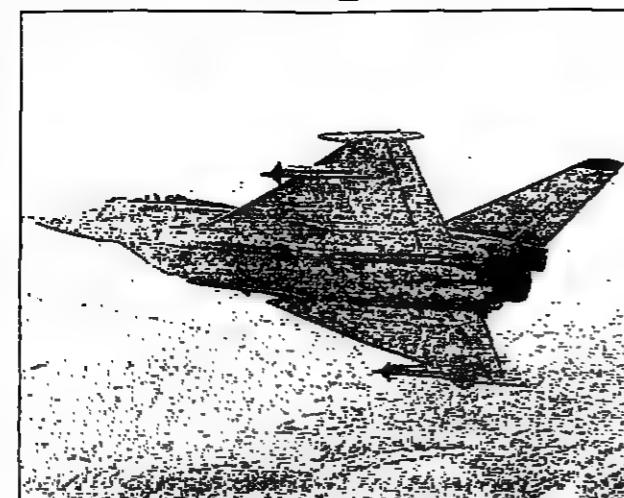
A healthy opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street last night enabled London to reverse earlier falls and end the day on a high note.

The FTSE 100 index wiped out a 22.2 deficit to end the session near its best of the day with a rise of 19.1 points at 4,576.2. A total of \$50 million shares changed hands.

Lasmo was the best performer among the top 100 companies, rising 1p to 259p after winning the bid for the Dacian Area in Venezuela's third-round operating agreement. Lasmo is ploughing \$435 million (£260 million) into the project.

BT stood out with a rise of 7p to 4531p after securing backing for a \$10 billion syndicated credit facility for Concert, which will be formed once the merger with MCI goes through. The facility has been arranged by a clutch of banks, including Bank of America, Citibank and JP Morgan Securities.

Hopes that the proposed link-up with American Airlines may soon go through helped British Airways to a 20p rise at 7151p. This follows recommendations made in a



Eurofighter's revival saw brokers backing BAe, up 21p

US congressional report that other American carriers are allotted an extra 21 slots over Heathrow each day.

The Square Mile is about to contract even further with news of a bid approach for Cater Allen, the discount house. The shares shot up 21p, to 5621p, giving the group a price tag of £183 million. The City has experienced a spate of mergers and

takeovers. Leopold Joseph surged 321p to 5521p.

The £400 million cash handout that accompanied Boots' full-year figures left the price 21p easier at 5621p in ex-dividend form, after briefly touching 561p. The special dividend of 44.2p a share is in addition to the 14.3p ordinary dividend being paid.

The better than expected profits news from Railtrack

was rewarded with a rise of 121p to 658p. But the size of the numbers drew criticism from other quarters who believe the company should step up its investment.

Pilkington fell 7p to 117p, with brokers poised to downgrade in the wake of its profits setback.

FTS continued to respond to this week's news of a bid approach with a rise 10p at 155p. Bid speculation also continued to drive Shield Diagnostics sharply higher. The price touched 575p before ending the session 65p higher at 5621p, a rise over three days of 5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

5621p, a rise over three days of

BUSINESS LETTERS

Some borrowers rely on Miras

From Mr K. Armitage
Sir. During the 1980s people were encouraged to purchase property, and the mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) scheme, then at 30 per cent on the first £30,000, was used as an incentive.

Now the IoD, in its submission to the Chancellor for his planned Budget, is recommending that the Miras scheme, now standing at 15 per cent on the first £30,000, be scrapped ("IoD calls for mortgage tax relief to be scrapped", May 27), rather than increase income taxation. The IoD speaks for the captains of industry, but who speaks for the average householder who might rely on Miras to make ends meet?

Nonetheless, the Chancellor might accept such a proposal but he should only do so, if firstly, the building societies agree to charge interest on loans on a monthly rather than an annual basis, and, secondly, mortgages can be paid off without financial penalty.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ARMITAGE,
6 Deben Valley Drive,
Kesgrave,
Suffolk.

No returns from the Revenue

From Mr John Whittaker
Sir. Tax returns full of mistakes (May 29). It should hardly be a surprise to the Inland Revenue — it failed to supply a copy return for the taxpayers' own retention and to serve as a worksheet — a common practice in Europe.

Incorrect or not, I can't begin to think of the probable state in which some returns will be submitted.

And what's more, my attempts to obtain a second return from the local tax office and the Inland Revenue's central order group have proved fruitless.

The former had none and did not expect to provide them, and the latter failed to respond to my request. I don't feel inclined to make a photocopy, as suggested by a tax official.

Inland Revenue offices could save themselves much aggro now by placing a stock of blanks at reception for taxpayer collection.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN M. WHITTAKER,
25 St Ives Gardens,
Bournemouth.

Starting date is all in currency debate

From Mr E. Cox
Sir. S. W. de Looze (Business Letters, May 23) is right enough to denounce the over-readiness of some companies to blame their inability to sustain profitability on the value of sterling. "Germany and Japan", he notes, "have lived for 50 years or so with a constantly appreciating currency."

Well, yes, but so much depends on your starting date. If he chose 60 years not 50, the yen was 10 to the pound and four to the dollar. Today it is worth just a few per cent of that, which is real depreciation.

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN COX,
76 Oldway Road, SE14.

Back to basics

JULIE RAMSHAW, the one-time City analyst whose departure from Laura Ashley caused such a stir (and yet another run on the shares) has found a new home. As predicted, she is heading back to the City. She is taking up a post at Morgan Stanley, her previous employer as it happens, which is beefing up its research base in London — an analyst covering the financials sector is still needed, I hear. Ramshaw is going back to the UK retail slot.

Ramshaw left Morgan Stanley in

early 1996 to go to Laura Ashley and quit last month, rather unexpectedly, along with a senior finance man. She was at Morgan Stanley for six years before that. Everyone at Laura Ashley has denied any sort of row with Ann Iverson, chief executive, so one ought, I suppose, to believe them. Although personally I don't.

• NOT a lot of people know this, but the euro is also a sort of reddish kangaroo. True. The BBC's Newsnight had the notion, when the single European currency was first created, of illustrating the story with film clips of the animal. The idea had to be scrapped, though. Not only are the beasts on the point of extinction, they are also far too inactive. They just sit there. I have this on very good authority, although I am not sure if I believe it either. But there must be a moral somewhere.

Jolly Roger

MICHAEL HARDERN, would-be nemesis of the Nationwide, has a fondness for the symbolic gesture. He launched his election campaign yesterday from a replica of the Golden Hind, the ship in which Sir Fran-

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Operation Rhinegold and French vote unsettle EMU

If you want to watch history in the making, keep your eyes on EMU



Jacques Chirac, left, and Helmut Kohl have gambled on the political will behind EMU

longer going to be the Franco-German Cambembert currency I have often described on these pages — hard on the outside but soft on the inside and getting softer all the time. The euro will now be more like an oozing, creamy Dolcelatte Torta — riddled in its very essence with green veins of corruption, but all the more delicious for that.

For those (like myself) who prefer the sensual *jolie à vive* of the Mediterraneans to the self-righteousness of the modern Teutons, this is an entrancing prospect for Europe. It could now go ahead without any further belt-tightening. If the German public or the Bundesbank objected, Kohl would just tell them to get lost. Better still, Lionel Jospin had insisted that Italy must be a founder member. Again, the Germans might not like this, but Kohl would simply make them do as they're told.

According to this Panglossian reasoning, the recent events, far from endangering EMU, have made the single currency more certain than ever. Furthermore, the outcome of the process is no

and the French election have exactly the opposite implications: They have increased the likelihood of EMU being seriously delayed or completely abandoned from perhaps 10 per cent to something like 50 per cent. Correspondingly, the probability of a "core" EMU, on broadly the Maastricht terms in 1999, has fallen from some 80 per cent to, say, 40 per cent. And the chance that Italy will be a founder member in a broad Dolcelatte EMU has actually diminished — from an already slim 10 per cent to a negligible 5 per cent.

Do investors really believe that a "broad-soft EMU", embracing Italy and probably even Greece in a few years' time is now 60 or 70 per cent probable, as the commonly cited measures of market expectations seem to suggest? Is the probability of a total breakdown really as near to zero as it was before Chirac and Kohl made their historic blunders?

In my view, for what it is worth, Operation Rhinegold

Rhinegold has suddenly transformed the theoretical speculation that Kohl might be swept out of office next year into practical politics. And if defeat does start to look likely, Kohl may quickly lose his air of omnipotence. His legendary control of the German political process is built, above all, on electoral success. In other words, Kohl could become a lame duck.

Under these circumstances I

would not put my money on "the political will behind EMU". In Germany this political will reposes entirely in one aging man, who may be heading for political oblivion.

In France, the "political will" hypothesis was tested by President Chirac and thoroughly refuted. As for Italy, the last thing Chancellor Kohl will want to do now that he has been caught cheating will be to undermine the credibility of EMU even further by letting Italy in.

Why, then, have the markets

remained so calm in the past few days? I can suggest four possible explanations. First, my analysis may be

completely wrong. Secondly, the markets may be wrong — the majority of investors may not understand the reality and are therefore succumbing to a familiar trend until the momentum turns. Intriguingly, this was the view put forward in a commentary in Wednesday's *Le Monde*: "Certain experts judge that the optimism of investors may rest on a misunderstanding: in London, New York, Tokyo and Frankfurt, but also in Paris, market participants are persuaded that the Socialists will not implement their economic project and will return to the orthodoxy of Pierre Bergé." This assumption, according to the paper, will probably be proved wrong.

Thirdly, the present calm may be a technical aberration. The markets turned very suddenly on Monday at just the time when the German Government was making its decision to surrender to the Bundesbank. Perhaps the French and Italian authorities got wind of this good news and saw the chance to launch a massive defence of their currencies and bonds. After being so badly beaten, the anti-EMU speculators may not find the courage for another assault until they see more bad news.

Finally, it is possible that investors actually agree with the sceptical analysis — about Kohl's waning power, the crumbling consensus in France and the growing chance of a delay — yet are doing nothing.

How could this be? Perhaps investors simply do not know how to profit from the possible collapse of EMU — or if they do think they know, their ideas may cancel each other out.

Consider, for example, what delaying EMU would do to the mark. Some analysts argue that the mark would immediately rise against the dollar and sterling, as well as against the lira and franc. But others suggest that if France and Italy gained a competitive edge by breaking the currency link, Germany would have to compensate by cutting interest rates and devaluing the mark against the dollar, yen and pound.

For shares and bonds, EMU setbacks are equally ambiguous. Italian and French equities might suffer from a collapse of confidence, but they would gain (as Britain did after White Wednesday) from more competitive exchange rates, easier monetary and fiscal policies and higher economic growth.

Even Italian bonds, which I firmly believe to be the most vulnerable of all European assets, could arguably gain if lower short-term interest rates followed abandonment of the mark-lira link.

This would not be the first time that an event of vast historical importance was met with a shrug by financial markets — consider, for example, the end of the Cold War. In sum, if you want to watch history in the making, keep your eyes on EMU. But if you want to speculate for big profits, maybe you should try the Czech koruna or the Thai baht.

is set at 30 per cent of any profits above the average announced for the previous three financial years. The 1992 Budget, that is, David Crickshank, head of tax at Deloitte & Touche in London, has been searching the archives for the first ever windfall tax, and his research has come up with Rab Butler in 1952. "A hopeful Budget," said *The Times* of the day. I dimly remember some measure during the war years limiting manufacturers to their earlier levels of profit, but perhaps this does not amount to a windfall tax. Deloitte are wondering if anyone can remember an earlier example.

MARTIN WALLER



Rab Butler introduced possibly the first 'windfall tax' in 1952

Camelot's luck runs out as censure sets in

Jon Ashworth on how a British success story has been tarnished by rotten PR

Less than three years into the marriage, Camelot is heading for the divorce courts. The wedding was a spectacular affair, with fireworks over the Thames, and star-studded parties, but the euphoria proved short lived. Today, Camelot's senior executives are expected to tender their resignations, boxed into a corner by Westminster ultimatums. How did it all go so badly wrong?

Public relations, in short, On paper, Camelot has done an exceptional job. The lottery was assembled in record time, the British public caught the fever, and the whole aim of the exercise — raising the most for good causes — has been more than accomplished. In just 31 months £5 billion has been raised for the Government and good causes — about £1 billion ahead of forecasts. This is a great British success story.

But people have short memories. The fabric of the lottery has become as routine as delivering the milk, or collecting the post. The technical complexities have been forgotten. One is left with the image of a group of well-heeled executives cashing in on a good thing. Hence, the events of the past ten days.

The debate is worth putting into perspective. When the lottery came up for consideration in 1992, the Government made the conscious decision to run with a private operator. The money would come from private enterprise, not from the taxpayer. State-run lotteries do not hand out huge bonuses, and do not make profits, but who puts up the money in the first place? The contract went to competitive tender, and Camelot was deemed the most suitable candidate; a view endorsed independently by the National Audit Office. Performance-related pay was never an issue.

Mistakes have been made. Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, should have handed on to a successor once he had vetted the eight lottery candidates. This is common practice overseas, and would have avoided the subsequent 15 to 20 per cent, depriving government and good causes of up to £500 million a year. Finally, there is Keno, a form of electronic bingo, which is often bigger than either Instant or the online lottery game, but is always run by the government-appointed operator. Lord Mancroft, the Tory peer who ran the successful Poppy Day scratchcards, wants to launch Keno in pubs, clubs and airport lounges, potentially diverting further huge sums.

Camelot's point is that bonuses for directors, paid out of its own pocket, are not the issue. Without action, it has little hope of achieving its target of raising £9 billion for good causes over seven years, whatever its successes so far. Who would be the losers then?

ALL CLEAR NOW?

bumf n. usu. derog. papers, documents (often prec. by what's all this; I'm not signing clause 2, para 4, sub 2.4.6 of this, etc.) for rapid trans.

affidavit n. 1 agreeable Welsh farmer 2 written statement produced in court which should be carefully drawn up.

paralegal n. 1 one who provides advice at great height (usu. 20,000 feet) 2 wordy legal document with many indented lines 3 a person trained in subsidiary legal matters.

case-law n. 1 the principle that a suitcase will always travel in an equal and opposite direction to the aircraft you're in 2 the law as established by the outcome of former cases.

For the definitive answers to your legal questions, call Rowe & Maw and have a clearer understanding of the law.

Rowe & Maw

LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS
20 Blackfriars Lane, London EC4V 6HD
Tel: 0171 248 4282

Disposals lose £14m at Powell Duffryn

By OLIVER AUGUST

PRE-TAX profits at Powell Duffryn, the ports and engineering company, increased 5 per cent to £34 million, before a £14.3 million exceptional charge from restructuring.

The charge relates to losses from the disposal of two non-core businesses. The terminals sale left a hole of £11.9 million while the sale of Powell Duffryn Bricks cost £2.4 million.

Barry Hartiss, chief executive, said: "The reshaping of Powell Duffryn is making good progress. Management action will continue to eliminate weaknesses, capitalise on existing strengths and identify appropriate opportunities to strengthen the portfolio still further. We still have further disposals to make."

The last year is said to have seen "significant progress" in the implementation of the restructuring strategy, with disposals yielding £40 million.

The terminals sale centred around the disposal of eight bulk liquid storage terminals around the world. The company said: "Demand at our terminals had been in decline as the petrochemical sector sought to destock but the capital expenditure requirements for environmental compliance continued unabated."

The sale of Powell Duffryn Bricks also coincided with the company's withdrawal from the coal industry. It said: "These various disposals have largely eliminated the group's exposure to the UK construction sector and to potentially significant environmental liabilities worldwide."

In the year to March 31, post-exceptional pre-tax profits of £30 million went up from £5 million the previous year. Losses per share of 7.6p turned into earnings per share of 15.3p. The dividend remains unchanged at 25p, with a 17p final dividend due on August 8.



Brian Larcombe, left, finance director of 3i, with Ewen Macpherson, the chief executive he succeeds in July. He has pledged to maintain company strategy

3i sets sights on German market after dull performance in UK

By ADAM JONES

BRIAN LARCOMBE, the incoming chief executive of 3i, the venture capital firm, said yesterday that there would be little change in strategy when he takes over from Ewen Macpherson next month.

The two men were unveiling annual results that reflected the relatively dull performance last year by UK smaller to medium-sized companies, as well as a £60 million adverse currency adjustment from unhedged exposure to sterling's strength.

Net asset value rose 14 per cent, from 426p to 486p per

share, slightly below some analysts' expectations. In the year to March 31, 1996, NAV had grown by 23 per cent.

Mr Larcombe, finance director, said competition was increasing in the funding of management buyouts, which accounted for 31 per cent of 3i investments last year. "Quite a number of our competitors have raised substantial new funds." But a great deal of that money was channelled towards buyouts of more than £100 million, more than 3i normally handles, he added.

Although 3i is still over-

whelmingly invested in the UK, the company is targeting Germany this year, with new offices opening in Hamburg, Stuttgart and Munich.

Mr Macpherson said that Scotland had been one of the big growth areas for 3i last year, both in new investment and through increases in existing holdings. Supported sectors included oil services around Aberdeen, as well as technology firms.

Mr Macpherson said 3i's policy of continuing to back start-up paid dividends. One start-up software company

that floated last October turned a £2 million investment into £35 million.

The total 3i return for the year was £415.5 million, representing a 16.4 per cent return on opening shareholders' funds, below the 18.7 per cent the FT-SE all-share index would have produced, but above the 15.7 per cent gain that would have been recorded by the FT-SE SmallCap index. The figure was held back by weaker performance in continental Europe.

Profits from dividends and other revenue rose from £70

million to £91.3 million, helped by a low tax charge.

Capital profits, which include realised and unrealised increases in the value of 3i stakes, fell from £456 million to £223 million. The unrealised values were hit by a general slowing in earnings growth among small companies, as well as a £60 million reduction caused by the strength of sterling. There is a final dividend of 5.7p, up by 13.6 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Cater Allen shares rise after approach

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES of Cater Allen Holdings rose sharply yesterday after the discount house disclosed it had received an approach that may lead to an offer for the company.

No further details were given. James Barclay, chairman, said that talks continued, but a further announcement was unlikely this week. The identity

was not revealed. The shares rose 116p to 551p, their peak since 1994, valuing the business at almost £182 million.

In its last full financial year Cater Allen suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £14.6 million from £25.9 million, mainly because of provisions against the financial reconstruction of Lloyd's of London.

Cowboy directors under fire

By JON ASHWORTH

UNSCRUPULOUS directors will be named and publicly humiliated, as part of a new government offensive aimed at protecting the consumer.

Nigel Griffiths, Consumer Affairs Minister, intends to make an example of so-called "phoenix" directors, who move from company to company, leaving distressed creditors behind. He singled out the "shocking" case of Sharman Communications, a

travel agent and tour operator, which ceased trading in 1994 after just four months, leaving over 700 customers out of pocket. Losses exceeded £400,000.

Mr Griffiths said: "If you are ripping people off, there is no place for you in British business. Let there be no doubt — war has been declared on the cowboy director."

The Insolvency Service, an

executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is to subject rogue directors to even greater scrutiny. Mr Griffiths said: "Once the courts have banned them, we will make every effort to name them and publicise their actions to deter others."

More than 300 directors were banned in the first three months of the year, up from 200 in the same period in 1996.

ICI talks complete

ICI Australia and ICI, the parent company in Britain, have completed negotiations over the commercial arrangements between the two groups in advance of the sale of ICI's stake in ICI Australia. ICI Australia will continue to be allowed to use the ICI roundel or registered trademark, although the company will change its name.

The two companies have also agreed to co-operate in paints over the next seven years. The two will also co-operate on explosives and surfactants.

Arrests at DKB

TOKYO prosecutors said that they have arrested four officials of Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, one of Japan's top commercial banks, on suspicion of lending 11.78 billion yen (£62 million) to a racketeer. The loans violated Japan's Commercial Code, prosecutors said. They added that DKB made the loans through Daiwa Shinkin, a finance firm closely associated with DKB, in 51 instalments from July 1994 to September 1996. The loans were not properly collateralised as required by Japanese law.

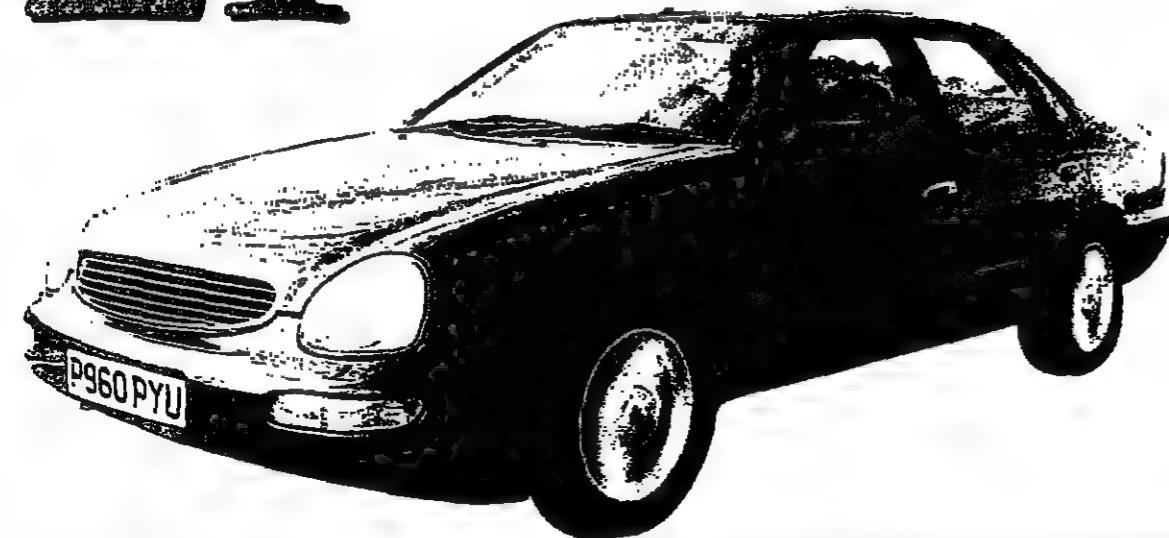
Nomura 'don' called

PROSECUTORS in Japan have summoned for questioning the man once hailed as the "don" of the Japanese stock broking industry before his demise as chairman of Nomura Securities in 1991. Setsuya Tabuchi, 73, was interrogated by a special investigation unit of the Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office that is investigating a widening payoff scandal involving Nomura and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank. Prosecutors were expected to summon Yoshihisa Tabuchi, 64, former Nomura president, for additional questioning.

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

21 CARS TO BE WON DRIVE AWAY IN A BRAND NEW FORD



Start collecting tokens in *The Times* today and you could be one of 21 readers who will drive off in a brand new top-of-the-range Ford, in the biggest and best car promotion ever. Our prize draw celebrates 21 years of Ford as Britain's favourite car manufacturer by giving you the chance to win one of 21 cars. Included in the many prizes is the Scorpio Ultima 2.3 above, which encapsulates Ford's latest and most original ideas, continuing to set new standards in luxury motoring. It retails for £24,875 on the road and is equipped with uncompromising elegance and luxury. Every day we will feature a different model from the Ford range in our fantastic car competition bonanza.

HOW TO ENTER Collect 10 tokens from *The Times* or five from *The Times* and one from *The Sunday Times*, or two from *The Sunday Times*. All tokens must be differently numbered. Entry forms will be printed in *The Sunday Times* on June 15 and in *The Times* on June 21. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official Ford prize draw entry form from *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*. Abridged terms and conditions appeared on Monday.



CHANGING TIMES

MAGNA SPECIALIST CONFECTIONERS

PRODUCT RECALL

FREEZE POPS

**POWER RANGERS, LOONEY TUNES, FROZZY FREEZE,
JACK FROST**

Despite rigorous quality management procedures, the above products may be faulty. In a small number of cases the contents may have been subject to fermentation causing the creation of alcohol.

Any customers who have purchased any of these products should return them to the store or shop at which they were bought or directly to Magna at the address below. A full refund will be given.

Magna apologises for any inconvenience caused to customers.

Magna Specialist Confectioners Ltd
Magna House
Telford
Shropshire TF3 3BH

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



THEATRE 1

Unseasonal: the Globe Theatre's first official summer show is a fine staging of *The Winter's Tale*



THEATRE 2

Despite the exuberant Jerry Lewis, *Damn Yankees* proves barely worthy of revival



OPERA

The British Youth Opera fights a losing battle to resuscitate *The Gondoliers*



MUSIC

From Bernstein to Billings: a superb American choir reveals the breadth of its native repertoire

THEATRE: The omens for the Globe are a whole lot better, says Benedict Nightingale, than for a smug Fifties musical



Power to move: Mark Lewis Jones is the pick of the performers as Leontes and Belinda Davison makes a fine Hermione, with Polly Pritchett as First Lady

This opening production confirms what last year's sneak preview of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* suggested. The thatched-and-timbered cylinder opposite St Paul's is not going to be a theme-park for trippers or a playpen for academics. The Globe has every chance of making a vital contribution to London's culture.

The fact that David Freeman's cast varies from fair to good, but rises no further, serves only to clinch the point. Yesterday afternoon was often overcast, occasionally drizzly. There was nothing between my bottom and a painfully authentic bench, and not a lot of leg-room. Flying machines passed overhead, variously sounding like gnats and zeppelins. And still I was moved when Belinda Davison's Hermione came back to life, and Mark Lewis Jones clutched her with a great howl of 'She's warm'. How will we feel, then, when exceptional actors get the full measure of that hefty rectangular stage?

Tom Phillips, the designer, fills it with earth and not a lot else. Apart from their odd habit of using truck-tyres for

seats, Leontes's Sicilians seem an archaically Mediterranean lot, with their brown smocks, bangles and superglued hair. Polixenes's Bohemia, with its garlands and floral exotica, looks more Eastern. Either way, the actors have plenty of space in which to move and, thanks partly to the divisions created by the stage's two inbuilt columns, can begin one scene almost before another ends. The result is a splendidly fluent production, if not one with any special point to make about *The Winter's Tale* itself.

True, there are oddities. Why is one of Leontes's courtiers a skeletal, white-faced figure dragged onstage by a cord? Why is Time a battered vagrant wandered in, complete with cider bottle, from Cardboard City? Why suddenly

give claws to Hermione, who has been hovering in spirit over the abandoned Ferdinand, and ask us to accept that she is the bear who devours Antigonus? But at least such touches proclaim that work at the Globe will not dwindle into heritage Shakespeare in doubles and hose.

Davison makes a fine impression as the wife Leontes rejects and, despite her goony Mummerset accent, Anna-Livia Ryan a lively one as the daughter he mislays. But the pick of the performers is, as he should be, Jones as Leontes himself. He catches the ache as well as the disgust of a mind

usual nowadays, and to audiences, who must learn to listen more acutely to words that do, after all, themselves paint everything from morning haze to night-time tempests.

But the omens are good. How refreshing to hear Camillo say he must leave Leontes's court, or Polixenes wonder how he has offended the mad king, and feel that they are not simply playing with their inner worry-beads. They are talking to you, asking you questions, involving you in their fears. At the Globe, you, too, are part of the debate. Isn't that what theatre is all about?

This is the real thing

The Winter's Tale
Globe

COVENT GARDEN FESTIVAL: Jaded G&S, and a bright American choir

Messing about in leaky boats

OPERA

The Gondoliers
Freemasons' Hall, WC2

talents on this tired, faded stuff. The insertion of topical jokes — as topical as Genista McIntosh and the Carnetol board — served only to emphasise the aridity of what surrounded them.

At least Jamie Hayes and Ruairi Murchison, producer and designer, make no attempt to suggest a Venetian setting: here are nice, well-scrubbed English gels, and chaps messing about in boats no nearer the Adriatic than Sunningdale. Playing the Grand Inquisitor as an undertaker is a nice enough idea even if it can't be seen through, but there's no point in reproving Hayes for failing to devise a consistent comic style: the text resists any such thing. If eyes-and-teeth energy were

enough — and the cast worked itself silly — his good-natured staging would work, but it isn't.

Timothy Dean, BYO's music director, conducted extremely well, and the singers did what they could in a space that is far from word-friendly. Andrew MacKenzie-Wicks (Luis) and Andrew Hammond (Inquisitor) displayed genuine comic talent as well as singing crisply; Geraldine McGreevy (Casilda) is definitely a talent to watch; Henry Moss (Marco) is already a very useful lyric tenor — *Take a pair of sparkling eyes* went very nicely.

It was sad to see a comic as gifted as Richard Suart (Duke) working four times as hard as he needed to and inevitably suffering from the law of diminishing returns, and to see Frances McCafferty (Duchess) wasted: she sang her dreadful (often, and rightly, cut) solo embarrassingly well. Tomorrow's repeat is definitely for registered G&S addicts only.

RODNEY MILNES

ished, bright and brilliantly balanced. They have honed the spirituals with which they closed the concert to an almost over-gilded perfection. Perhaps it is a case of over-arrangement: Dale Adelmann's painstakingly slow and precious *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* fails to swing, and is almost exacerbated by the choir's silken sound.

Similarly, Evelyn Simpson-Curton's *Git on Board* had a virtuous piano part, but her rationalisation of the original uneven syncopations robbed it of its fast and loose quality. Spirituals, unlike gospels, are the equivalent of hymns. Yet there is a raw, spontaneous quality to the best performances missing from these manicured arrangements sung by a uniformly white choir.

HELEN WALLACE

An unlikely old devil

Damn Yankees
Adelphi

as extreme as acting. When he is not exuding po-faced blankness from above his blazer, Jerry Lewis is, well, Jerry Lewis. He intermittently nudges the audience, mugs, comically simmers, and does out-of-character voices. It is about as Mephistophelean as Norman Wisdom.

Still, Lewis fans and nostalgia freaks will doubtless have fun. So, at times, will those who wonder where all the good tunes have gone. Nixon bangs across Adelphi and Ross's *Whatever Lola Wants Lola Gets* with verve and style, and others sing *Heart* well enough to make you forget that it is actually a paean to mindlessness. The choreography is fine, though those dancing sportsmen look as if they would be happier playing diddlywinks than doing tough things at the plate.

• This review appeared in some editions of The Times yesterday.



Jerry Lewis (Applegate), John-Michael Flate (Joe Hardy) and April Nixon (Lola)

RESTRICTION LIFTED

CRASH
AHEAD
OPEN
SOON
NO CUTS



JAMES SPADER HOLLY HUNTER ELIAS KOTEAS

CRASH

DEBORAH KARA UNGER AND ROSANNA ARQUETTE

STARTS TODAY AT SELECTED
CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

FOR FULL UK PROGRAMME & TALKING POINTS DETAILS CALL US FREE 0800 000 0000

The Plymouth Music Series of Minnesota may sound like something from the backwoods of a Garrison Keillor novel, but think again. Its founder, conductor Philip Brunelle, is a leading figure in the re-creation of America's musical heritage. Twenty-eight years ago, when he set up the series, he was the first person to ask Aaron Copland to conduct his own choral work *In the Beginning*. His was the groundbreaking recording of Britten's "American" opera, *Paul Bunyan*. He is currently engaged on the four-volume *Witness* (Collins Classics), an anthology of African/American music from early spirituals to 20th-century compositions.

Perhaps his zeal for recovering the rare or neglected occasionally gets the better of him. This programme, "Wi-

ness — 200 years of American choral music", did not altogether do the nation justice. Among the gems were Bernstein's witty chorus from *Candide*, The Best of All Possible Worlds; Copland's radiant *In the Beginning*, and the gracefully simple arrangement of *Witness* by Jack Halloran. But there was also William Billings's (1746-1800) primitive *Universal Praise*, and Arthur Foote's overlong *Vita Nostra Plena Bells*.

Dominick Argento's 1967

settings of Keats's doggerel



■ POP 1
Hanson, three kid brothers from Oklahoma, look back in innocence on *Middle of Nowhere*



■ POP 2
... while, at the other end of the age spectrum, Steve Winwood offers solid craft on *Junction Seven*



■ POP 3
Jakob Dylan, son of Bob, leads the Wallflowers in a homage to past styles on *Bringing Down the Horse*



■ POP 4
... and Peter Hook, once of New Order, goes into Britpop mode on an album with his new band Monaco

The kids are all writing

POP ALBUMS: How did Hanson become the current teen sensation? David Sinclair blames the parents

HANSON

Middle Of Nowhere

(Mercury 534 615 £13.99)
HANSON remind me of the bumper-sticker urging us to "Employ a teenager now, while they still have all the answers". It is not just that the three Hanson brothers from Tulsa, Oklahoma — Isaac, 16, Taylor, 14, and Zach, 11 — evince such worldly air in their lyrics: "You have so many relationships in this life/Only one or two will last," they sing on *MMMBop*, the No 1 single in both Britain and America this week. It is that their traditional pop formula is so unnervingly knowing.

Ignoring all developments from the 1980s onwards, they have gone straight to their parents' record collection, absorbed the classic popular sounds of the late 1950s and 1960s, mixed them up with some 1970s soul, and then redeployed the whole as if such music had been invented (by them) yesterday.

The result is *Middle of Nowhere*, an album of middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock, which draws its inspiration, most obviously, from the Beatles and the young Michael Jackson (both simultaneously on *Speechless*, which marries the riff of *Come Together* to a squeaky, pseudo-heavy rock/soul vocal).

None of it is particularly

inspiring, but what would sound inexcusably limp and conservative in the hands of anyone who knew better is at least infused here with an innocent *jolie de vivre*. "We've got to change our point of view/if we want the sky blue," they sing in *Where's the Love*, a song about a failing relationship which, like so much of the album, sounds slightly earnest, unfailingly wholesome and effortlessly primed with the simple certainties of youth.

STEVE WINWOOD

Junction Seven

(Virgin 7243 8 44059 £13.99)

STEVE WINWOOD was something of a Hanson figure in his day, having joined the Spencer Davis Group at the tender age of 15, before scoring a string of No 1 hits. Now 49, Winwood's boyish charm and zest have long since been replaced by the crafted approach and leisurely workrate of a man whose musical vision is more about poise than passion.

Junction Seven, his seventh solo album, starts off with the relatively energetic *Spy in the House of Love*, a single which conspicuously failed to reach even the Top 75, and then slides into an unchallenging combination of soulful ballads such as *Plenty Lovin'*, which he sings as a smoochy duet with Des'ree, and polite funk grooves including *Just Wanna*

Middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock has made Taylor, Isaac and Zachary Hanson rather more than middlingly successful

Have Some Fun, in which he rails against the tyranny of the rock star's working day with lines such as "It's almost half-past three/And it's time for tea".

The gaudy Latin percussion and horn section arrangement

on *Gotta Get Back to My Baby* sounds rather opportunistic, but the only serious black mark is a stiffly laundered version of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* that wipes out all trace of the original's croaky emotion.

THE WALLFLOWERS

Bringing Down the Horse

(Interscope IND 90055 £9.99)

WHETHER it's Julian Lennon, Zeggy Marley or the hapless Jeff Buckley (see Caitlin Moran's tribute on the facing page), the sons of an earlier generation of stars have not found it easy to step outside the shadow of their parents' achievements.

Jakob Dylan has done better than most with his group the Wallflowers and, after a

false start in 1992 when their debut album flopped, the band has recently seen sales of *Bringing Down the Horse* go past the two-million mark in America.

Re-released here to coincide with the Wallflowers' British dates earlier this week, *Bringing Down the Horse* is a strong collection of songs steeped in the sturdy rock'n'roll tradition of 30 years ago and more. Although Dylan has probably made more of an effort than most singers not to sound like his father, he is clearly an old head on young shoulders, and the band inevitably ends up echoing old-school artists such as Bruce Springsteen on *Three Marlenas* ("I'm heading out on that highway ... I ain't

looking back") and the Rolling Stones on *God Don't Make Lonely Girls*.

Still, at least they do it with panache and a genuine understanding of what this kind of music is about.

MONACO

Music for Pleasure

(Polydor 537 242 £13.99)

WHILE the status of New Order remains unclear, the group's bass player Peter Hook has teamed up with singer, guitarist and programmer David Potts to form Monaco. The duo has already tasted success with their first single, *What Do You Want From Me?*, a song blatantly redolent of New Order, but charmingly so.

While Potts sounds uncannily like New Order's singer Bernard Sumner, it is Hook's distinctive bass guitar sound and his habit of using the instrument to pick out the melody line on throbby techno-pop tracks such as *Junk* that is the defining feature of much of *Music For Pleasure*.

Elsewhere, though, songs such as *Buzzgum* and *Blue* sound like a cynical attempt to grab a slice of the Oasis/Britpop action, a bandwagon which has in any case long since departed.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

How sweet the sound

MARTIN SPEAKE ENSEMBLE

Amazing Grace

(Spotlite SPJ-CD) £5.99

ALTOIST Martin Speake is perhaps best known as a founder member of the saxophone quartet Itchy Fingers, but recently he's been exploring world music with his seven-piece Fever Pitch, and the music of Ornette Coleman with a quartet, Mind and Time.

Such broadmindedness has

JAZZ ALBUMS

fed directly into this set, mainly composed of pieces by the likes of Wayne Shorter and Lee Konitz, but also containing imaginative reworkings of standards and perky originals based on *I Got Rhythm*.

Guitarist Phil Lee's tastefully propulsive accompaniment and his fluent soloing provide the perfect complement to Speake's elegant, thoughtful, but highly emotional playing, and the rhythm section — bassist Mick Hutton and drummer Bryan Spring, occasionally augmented by the luminous piano of Pete Saberton — is exemplary throughout. This is neat, incisive music, faultlessly performed.

CARLOS MARTINS QUARTET

Passagem

(Enja ENJ-9073) £12.99

ALTHOUGH his band members, the American drummer Cindy Blackman and pianist Bernardo Sasseti, will be relatively familiar to local jazz audiences, the former from her numerous slick albums as leader, the latter for his work with the Guy Barker Sextet, saxophonist Carlos Martins should also establish himself as a substantial presence with this surefooted, intelligently programmed album.

A number of cogent originals notwithstanding, the meat of the session resides as much in Martins's duo and trio explorations of material by Ornette Coleman and Duke Ellington as in the bustling accessibility of the quartet tracks. The latter's *Sophisticated Lady* in particular, in which Martins and Sasseti combine beautifully at an achingly slow tempo, is worth the price of admission alone.

CHRIS PARKER



Middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock has made Taylor, Isaac and Zachary Hanson rather more than middlingly successful

Have Some Fun, in which he rails against the tyranny of the rock star's working day with lines such as "It's almost half-past three/And it's time for tea".

The gaudy Latin percussion and horn section arrangement

on *Gotta Get Back to My Baby* sounds rather opportunistic, but the only serious black mark is a stiffly laundered version of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* that wipes out all trace of the original's croaky emotion.

THE WALLFLOWERS

Bringing Down the Horse

(Interscope IND 90055 £9.99)

WHETHER it's Julian Lennon, Zeggy Marley or the hapless Jeff Buckley (see Caitlin Moran's tribute on the facing page), the sons of an earlier generation of stars have not found it easy to step outside the shadow of their parents' achievements.

Jakob Dylan has done better than most with his group the Wallflowers and, after a

false start in 1992 when their debut album flopped, the band has recently seen sales of *Bringing Down the Horse* go past the two-million mark in America.

Re-released here to coincide with the Wallflowers' British dates earlier this week, *Bringing Down the Horse* is a strong collection of songs steeped in the sturdy rock'n'roll tradition of 30 years ago and more. Although Dylan has probably made more of an effort than most singers not to sound like his father, he is clearly an old head on young shoulders, and the band inevitably ends up echoing old-school artists such as Bruce Springsteen on *Three Marlenas* ("I'm heading out on that highway ... I ain't

looking back") and the Rolling Stones on *God Don't Make Lonely Girls*.

Still, at least they do it with panache and a genuine understanding of what this kind of music is about.

MONACO

Music for Pleasure

(Polydor 537 242 £13.99)

WHILE the status of New Order remains unclear, the group's bass player Peter Hook has teamed up with singer, guitarist and programmer David Potts to form Monaco. The duo has already tasted success with their first single, *What Do You Want From Me?*, a song blatantly redolent of New Order, but charmingly so.

While Potts sounds uncannily like New Order's singer Bernard Sumner, it is Hook's distinctive bass guitar sound and his habit of using the instrument to pick out the melody line on throbby techno-pop tracks such as *Junk* that is the defining feature of much of *Music For Pleasure*.

Elsewhere, though, songs such as *Buzzgum* and *Blue* sound like a cynical attempt to grab a slice of the Oasis/Britpop action, a bandwagon which has in any case long since departed.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

CHRIS PARKER

Middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock has made Taylor, Isaac and Zachary Hanson rather more than middlingly successful

on *Gotta Get Back to My Baby* sounds rather opportunistic, but the only serious black mark is a stiffly laundered version of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* that wipes out all trace of the original's croaky emotion.

THE WALLFLOWERS

Bringing Down the Horse

(Interscope IND 90055 £9.99)

WHETHER it's Julian Lennon, Zeggy Marley or the hapless Jeff Buckley (see Caitlin Moran's tribute on the facing page), the sons of an earlier generation of stars have not found it easy to step outside the shadow of their parents' achievements.

Jakob Dylan has done better than most with his group the Wallflowers and, after a

false start in 1992 when their debut album flopped, the band has recently seen sales of *Bringing Down the Horse* go past the two-million mark in America.

Re-released here to coincide with the Wallflowers' British dates earlier this week, *Bringing Down the Horse* is a strong collection of songs steeped in the sturdy rock'n'roll tradition of 30 years ago and more. Although Dylan has probably made more of an effort than most singers not to sound like his father, he is clearly an old head on young shoulders, and the band inevitably ends up echoing old-school artists such as Bruce Springsteen on *Three Marlenas* ("I'm heading out on that highway ... I ain't

looking back") and the Rolling Stones on *God Don't Make Lonely Girls*.

Still, at least they do it with panache and a genuine understanding of what this kind of music is about.

MONACO

Music for Pleasure

(Polydor 537 242 £13.99)

WHILE the status of New Order remains unclear, the group's bass player Peter Hook has teamed up with singer, guitarist and programmer David Potts to form Monaco. The duo has already tasted success with their first single, *What Do You Want From Me?*, a song blatantly redolent of New Order, but charmingly so.

While Potts sounds uncannily like New Order's singer Bernard Sumner, it is Hook's distinctive bass guitar sound and his habit of using the instrument to pick out the melody line on throbby techno-pop tracks such as *Junk* that is the defining feature of much of *Music For Pleasure*.

Elsewhere, though, songs such as *Buzzgum* and *Blue* sound like a cynical attempt to grab a slice of the Oasis/Britpop action, a bandwagon which has in any case long since departed.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

CHRIS PARKER

Middle-of-the-road, Middle American, middling pop-rock has made Taylor, Isaac and Zachary Hanson rather more than middlingly successful

on *Gotta Get Back to My Baby* sounds rather opportunistic, but the only serious black mark is a stiffly laundered version of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* that wipes out all trace of the original's croaky emotion.

THE WALLFLOWERS

Bringing Down the Horse

(Interscope IND 90055 £9.99)

WHETHER it's Julian Lennon, Zeggy Marley or the hapless Jeff Buckley (see Caitlin Moran's tribute on the facing page), the sons of an earlier generation of stars have not found it easy to step outside the shadow of their parents' achievements.

Jakob Dylan has done better than most with his group the Wallflowers and, after a

false start in 1992 when their debut album flopped, the band has recently seen sales of *Bringing Down the Horse* go past the two-million mark in America.

Re-released here to coincide with the Wallflowers' British dates earlier this week, *Bringing Down the Horse* is a strong collection of songs steeped in the sturdy rock'n'roll tradition of 30 years ago and more. Although Dylan has probably made more of an effort than most singers not to sound like his father, he is clearly an old head on young shoulders, and the band inevitably ends up echoing old-school artists such as Bruce Springsteen on *Three Marlenas* ("I'm heading out on that highway ... I ain't

looking back") and the Rolling Stones on *God Don't Make Lonely Girls*.

Still, at least they do it with panache and a genuine understanding of what this kind of music is about.

MONACO

Music for Pleasure

(Polydor 537 242 £13.99)

WHILE the status of New Order remains unclear, the group's bass player Peter Hook has teamed up with singer, guitarist and programmer David Potts to form Monaco. The duo has already tasted success with their first single, *What Do You Want From Me?*, a song blatantly redolent of New Order, but charmingly so.

POP 4

... and Peter Hook once of New Order, goes into Britpop mode on an album with his new band Mononoke

How sweet the sound

MARVIN SPRAKE
TENNIS

JAZZ
ALBUMS

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997



POP 5

Promise cut short: the drowning of Jeff Buckley has robbed music of a true original



POP 6

Never tired of the old classics: Roger McGuinn looks forward to revising *temps perdu*



POP 7

Back together briefly, the Go-Betweens will enliven tomorrow's Fleadh in Finsbury Park



TOMORROW

Stomping at the Savoy: how will the Pet Shop Boys make out on the West End stage?



The magical Jeff Buckley: has the Mississippi River ended a brilliant career only one album old?

At peace with himself, Roger McGuinn invites you on a trip through his past

Early Byrds still catching the wave

When Roger McGuinn last visited Britain six years ago he seemed irritable and unhappy. He did not want to talk about the Byrds, or his relationship with Bob Dylan, or his born-again Christianity, which led to some rather limited conversation — if you got to talk to him at all. Many of his interviews were cancelled at zero notice.

Since then the man whose jingle-jangle guitar sound on all those classic Byrds hits is still being copied 30 years on, appears to have discovered the art of growing old gracefully. Now he is 54, McGuinn's grumpiness has been transformed into charm and affability; he is at ease with himself and happy to discuss anything you care to ask about his career.

The approach extends to his first tour of Britain for a decade. Audiences can look forward to a mellow evening of nostalgia. "It's just me and my 12-string guitar playing the old songs and telling some stories about those times," he says. "There may be one or two new songs, but I don't write a lot these days."

So have the creative juices dried up? "I write with Camilla [his wife and manager] when the need arises. We have a house on the beach in the

Gulf of Mexico, which is very peaceful, and we go down there to work on new songs," he says.

But not that many: McGuinn has produced a single solitary studio album in the past 20 years. His current live album, *Roger McGuinn Live From Mars*, contains only two new songs among the venerable classics and cover versions. Is there a fresh album of his own material in the offing? "I'd like to do that sometime in the next year or two," he answers vaguely.

Of course, when your repertoire includes *Turn, Turn, Turn*, *Eight Miles High* and *So You Want To Be A Rock'n'Roll Star* — not to mention

that still magical version of *Mr Tambourine Man* — the pressure to produce new material cannot be that great. Does he ever tire of singing songs that made him famous? "Not really. They are like favourite grown-up children. They're new to me every time I do them and I get a vicarious pleasure out of other people's appreciation. If it ever gets to be a grind I put the song away." At one time, he even grew fed up with *Chestnut Mare*, although that classic is now back in the set.

If his recent creative output has been small, McGuinn has been far from idle. "I played

I am very excited about getting back to the essence



Roger McGuinn and his trusty old 12-string await the pleasure of your company at a concert hall soon

150 dates last year, and it is the same most years. We are pretty much on the road."

These days he tries to make his shows more than a collection of songs, littering his set with fascinating anecdotes and delightful asides. He tells a rather good joke about Dylan's out-of-tune voice, reveals that David Crosby disliked *Mr Tambourine Man* because it had too many words and explains how *Eight Miles High* was initially only seven. McGuinn is a natural storyteller, and makes you eager to read the autobiography he has been working on for the past eight years. "The show is an outgrowth of that text," he says. "I started thinking what a soundtrack of the book would be like — and this show is it."

Apart from touring, the one

activity that does seem to stir McGuinn is the Internet. He has his own World Wide Web site (www.mcguinn.com) with a link to the Folk Den, where

every month he puts up a new

recording of a traditional song

such as *Sailor Lad* or *Alberta*.

Users can download the music

and find lyrics, guitar chords

and other information. "I

wanted to preserve the old

songs and make them accessible to a new generation," McGuinn says.

The service reflects McGuinn's feeling that his career

has come full circle with a

return to his folk roots. "Folk music is new again," he says. "We've been through the syntheses — jazz rock, space rock — and now I am very excited about getting back to the essence."

Above all, McGuinn is a survivor in a business with a high casualty rate. Of the original Byrds line-up Michael Clarke and Gene Clark are both dead, as are later members Gram Parsons and Clarence White. "I was just as abusive as anyone," he says. "I slowed down and I gave up cocaine 20 years ago," McGuinn explains.

He also credits his membership of the California-based

Church of the Way.

"Christianity has been a balancing factor," he says. "It gives me a sense of stability and a realization that making rock'n'roll hit

records is not the greatest achievement you can imagine.

But I'm still flattered that the

music has woven itself into the

fabric of our culture."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

• Roger McGuinn *Live From Mars* is released by Polydor. McGuinn plays Manchester University tomorrow; Birmingham Ronde Scots on Sunday; Cambridge Corn Exchange June 12; The Stables, Wavendon June 12; London Shepherd's Bush Empire June 13; Willesden June 14; Leeds June 16; Portsmouth June 18

Prince of darkness

Life was hard for Jeff Buckley. What will be hard for the rest of us is getting through our own lives without him

There is a hole in your record collection that will never be filled — it looks as though Jeff Buckley is dead. Only one album into his career, Buckley was already approaching legendary status, so laughably beyond any ongoing musical scene it was untrue.

Buckley was a touch of the Dark Stuff. He chronicled the rabid black poisons of love, life's extreme moments, the queasy dialogue of dreams. He was the new Van Morrison, the next Van Morrison, someone whose extraordinary vocal range and musical versatility would spark an astonishing career.

But yesterday week, while working on the follow-up to his 1995 debut album, *Grace*, which won him *Rolling Stone* magazine's Best New Artist Award, Buckley and a friend, Keith Fori, wandered down to a Memphis marina with a portable stereo and a guitar. They played and sang for an hour, before Jeff decided to swim out into the Mississippi River, fully clothed. He waded into the water, still singing, and tried to cajole Fori into following him. When the wake of a passing boat splashed the marina, Fori rescued the stereo and placed it on the bank to keep dry. When he turned back, Buckley had disappeared, apparently sucked under by the wake of the boat. Buckley was 30.

The son of the revered US folk-rock god Tim Buckley, Jeff had a troubled upbringing. In his short life, Tim Buckley released eight albums, a witchy brew of folk,

rock, jazz and blues. Although critically acclaimed as everything short of the cure for cancer, Tim's record sales were in the low thousands, and he took to drugs for comfort like a child sucks its thumb. Tim left Jeff's mother when Jeff was six months old.

Jeff's mother, Mary Guibert, immediately hit the road, chasing work wherever and whenever it became available. Their rootless existence, said Jeff, "gave me strength, insight, resolve. At the same time, it depleted my understanding of what it's like to have a home, or even your own dog for more than a year." Tim Buckley was 22 when he died of an overdose in 1975. Jeff had never met him.

Mary married again, but the pressures of work meant Jeff was left to bring up his younger brother. "I feel I was born old," he said in 1995. "I don't wake up and feel happy if it's a sunny day. You get happy in five-second bursts, and then you wait for the next five-second burst. I've always felt I know too much to be happy."

As his father had, Buckley turned to music for release and

redemption. "To feel the music soar through you changes you utterly," he said. "It changes your posture; you raise your chin, throw your shoulders back, walk with a swagger. When I sing, my face changes shape; it feels like my skull changes shape."

When Buckley sang, it wasn't only his skull that changed shape. Audiences met in front of him, and the first few rows would buckle when he kicked up one of his vocal twisters. He could go from front-front Kurt Cobain scream to operatic lullaby in a breath.

Starting his career in crowded folk cafes in New York, Buckley would start off singing soft and low, pulling the audience in with impassioned whispers, before snapping into vertical take-off and stripping the paint from the ceiling.

Within months, he was signed by Sony. His first album, *Grace*, was astonishing. Although the production veered towards big Queen-like rock at times, the occasional close of guitar bombast couldn't swamp the ambitious scope of the album: the dolorous, harmonium-led hymn of *Lover*,

You Should Have Come Over still sounds like spring rain after a funeral. *Dream Brother*, dedicated to his father, is a queasy, nightmarish examination of Tim's life, an echo-laden mourning which never concludes or resolves.

Buckley sounded like a scared child, lost in endless darkness. On *Grace*'s release, a herd of adjectives was lassoed into the Hyperbole Corral. Buckley's haunted eyes and pop-royalty cheekbones stared from countless magazines and, while he loathed the star-system and the fuss, Sony prepared itself to guide the career of a high-sales prestige artist.

However, various rumours started to circulate late through the industry. Many concerned a suspected heroin problem — and Buckley's behaviour certainly became erratic. He told of dreams in which a sculptor took a razorblade to his skin, and started plaiting and twisting the strands until Buckley became a living, immobile work of art. Work on *Grace*'s follow-up was delayed. Buckley told his band to leave town while he wrote new songs. Last December, he posted a note on his Internet Website, explaining that he was "in the middle of some wild s*** right now. Please be patient. I'll come out of my hole and will make bonfires out of ticket stubs come the autumn."

But the last concert was probably to an audience of one, on the banks of the Mississippi River, eight days ago.

No comeback, but . . .

OK, so why are those Australian cult icons, the Go-Betweens, back together?

A dored by the critics: ignored by the public.

The story of Australia's Go-Betweens is a textbook example of the often huge disparity between artistic and commercial success.

Revered as poetic champions who have composed some of the most literate, intelligent and joyous pop music of the past two decades, Robert Forster and Grant McLennan are back together again for a brief tour that will see them play their first consecutive UK dates since they appeared in 1989, a year before the Go-Betweens split up.

"It's just a way of celebrating 20 years of wonderful music," McLennan says. "I think it's beautiful to be such a cherished thing."

Although reunion tours are these days almost as fashionable as tribute bands, the Go-Betweens have no greatest hits album to promote, nor do they plan to record new material together. "I'm very, very happy with the back catalogue. It's a life story, it really is," says McLennan.

That story's opening chapters were set in 1978 in Brisbane. "It wasn't as if Grant and I were jamming to Chuck Berry records when we were 12," says Forster. "That's not our story. But we had been friends long before the band started."

Surprisingly, it was a film project that eventually caused Forster and McLennan to pool their creative talents once more; they have collaborated on a screenplay titled *Sydney Creeps*. "It's a romantic thriller set in Brisbane," Forster says. "It involves lots of local colour, surfing, religion . . . and pineapples," deadpans McLennan.

NICK KELLY

• The Go-Betweens play the Garage, Glasgow, tonight; Fleadh, Finsbury Park, London tomorrow, and the Forum, Kentish Town, London, on Monday



Go-Betweens Robert Forster (left) and Grant McLennan

TOWER RECORDS

2 CDs for £10

from The Royal Philharmonic Collection

Including these titles:

The Royal Philharmonic Collection

NYMAN

The architect
Sandy Wilkes
display, inc.
superior
collection
Chichester

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997

Court of Appeal

Law Report June 6 1997

Grant of leave for review suspends delay

Regina v Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Ex parte A

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Iain Gidwell [Judgment May 16]

Where leave to apply for judicial review had been granted it was not the substantive application for judicial review, to dismiss the application for judicial review on the ground of undue delay pursuant to Order 53, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, unless hardship, prejudice or detriment would be caused to any person within the meaning of section 36(6)(b) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, dismissing the appeal of the applicant, A, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Popplewell on December 15, 1995 of her substantive application for judicial review on the ground of undue delay.

The applicant had applied for compensation to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board alleging that she had been raped and burgled during a burglary at her home in May 1991.

On August 31, 1993 following an oral hearing by three board members her application was refused. On October 17, 1994 the applicant applied for leave to challenge that decision. On February 14, 1995 Mr Justice Carnwath had granted leave to move for judicial review.

Mr Nicholas Blaikie, QC and Miss Elizabeth Woodcraft for the applicant; Mr Michael Kent, QC, for the board.

Lord JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that main issue on the appeal was whether, absent hardship, prejudice or detriment, it was open to the court on the hearing of a substantive judicial review motion, for which leave had been granted, to dismiss the challenge on the ground of undue delay.

The issue had not been the subject of decision save only by Mr Justice Webster in *R v Taxistock*.

Unauthorised use of computer data

Director of Public Prosecutions v Bignell and Another

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Astill [Judgment May 16]

A person who was authorised to secure access to computer material who did so for an unauthorised purpose did not commit an offence under section 1 of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the prosecution by way of cause stated from Southwark Crown Court (Judge Watts and Justices) which had allowed an appeal by Paul Bignell and Victoria Bignell from their convictions by Mr Nicholas Evans, Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate for securing unauthorised access to computer material, contrary to section 1 of the 1990 Act.

Mr Peter Doyle for the defendants; Mr Michael Bowes for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ASTILL said that the defendants were two police officers who had extracted details of two motor cars from the police computer for private purposes.

The defendants were authorised to access the information on the computer but were not permitted

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER
THE TIMES
NOW PRINTED IN CHARLEROI

Make your
family or friends living
abroad feel at home

Set up a subscription to The Times for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication.

SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

The Times. Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

Some day hand delivery is available as follows: Belgium — main cities; France — Paris and most areas in postcodes 62, 63, 94; Luxembourg — nationwide; some day delivery by post; Netherlands — main cities; Spain — most areas in Madrid and Barcelona; Switzerland — Geneva, Bern, Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one day late. Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (except Rest of Europe)

Country	Currency	Singles			Single Day Saturday postage-Far Only
		12 months	6 months	3 months	
Belgium	BEF	12500	5750	3250	3250
France	FF	1850	9150	5050	5050
Luxembourg (Euro)	EUR	9164	6500	5040	2035
Netherlands	NLG	775	5050	4050	1527
Spain	PTA	75000	20000	14154	12000
Sweden	SEK	500	400	445	220
Rest of Europe	£	474	247	257	1185

THE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Please order my subscription for:
 12 months 6 months 3 months
 Monday to Saturday Saturday only
 Other days — Please specify: _____

 Payment by:
 Cheques made payable to News International
 Credit card (*) Visa Mastercard/Access
 AmEx No. _____ Expiry: _____

 Signature: _____

 Telephone: _____

 Post Name: _____

 (*) Deposit in £ Sterling at the current exchange rate
 Please return to News International, Subscriptions Department, P.O. Box 14, Ashton Gate, Ashton Road, Bristol BS2 0BP, England. Telephone: 0117 361 377. Fax: 0117 371 276.

CHANGING TIMES

Law Report June 6 1997

Use of statutory checklist can assist judges

B v B (Minor: Residence order)

Before Lord Justice Potter and Mr Justice Holman [Judgment May 12]

Judges should not ignore the welfare checklist in section 103 of the Children Act 1989 in disputes over the residence of children just because neither party had made complaints against the other. Use of the checklist was a useful discipline which might aid in clarifying the reasons for a judge's decision.

The Court of Appeal so observed

allowing an appeal by a mother

against a decision of Mr Recorder Holmes in Cambridge County Court on November 11, 1996 ordering that the son aged six of her

marriage to the father reside with

the father and directing that the

case be reheard before Judge

Bromley, QC.

A single sentence in the judg-

ment just identifying the points

which the recorder regarded as

decisive might have been all that

was needed.

The Court of Appeal must be

entitled to interfere when it was

in the end impossible to discern

what the recorder reached on the

basis of the evidence.

It was not a good reason for not

going through the checklist if

neither party had made com-

plaints against the other. Had the

recorder gone through the check-

list, his reasons might have

emerged with clarity and the need

for the appeal and rehearing been

obviated.

Solicitors: Aitchison Shaw,

Holloway; Lee Davies & Co.

Harlow.

feeling

that the decision might be

wrong since he did not know the

reasons for it.

The appeal would be allowed the

matter remitted for rehearing be-

fore a suitably qualified circuit

judge.

In his judgment the recorder

had failed to take relevant matters

into account or taken account of

irrelevant matters if the judge's

decision set out reasons with

sufficient detail and clarity.

A judgment was not to be

approached like a summing-up. It

was not an assault course. Judges

were working under enormous

pressure and the Court of Appeal

would not interfere simply because

an extempore judgment was not as

polished or thorough as it other-

wise might be.

A single sentence in the judg-

ment just identifying the points

which the recorder regarded as

decisive might have been all that

was needed.

The Court of Appeal must be

entitled to interfere when it was

in the end impossible to discern

what the recorder reached on the

basis of the evidence.

It was not a good reason for not

going through the checklist if

neither party had made com-

plaints against the other. Had the

recorder gone through the check-

list, his reasons might have

emerged with clarity and the need

for the appeal and rehearing been

obviated.

Solicitors: Aitchison Shaw,

Holloway; Lee Davies & Co.

Harlow.

It was not a good reason for not

going through the checklist if

neither party had made com-

plaints against the other. Had the

recorder gone through the check-

list, his reasons might have

emerged with clarity and the need

for the appeal and rehearing been

obviated.

But he would know that in the

course of taxation the court would

apply the normal apportion-

ment rules, exclude costs properly

attributable to, and payable by

those other defendants. So those

costs would not be payable out of

the fund if a certificate were issued.

But he would know that in the

area director had to consider was

whether it was reasonable and

proper for the second and third

defendants to defray so much of

the costs of the proceedings as

would be payable out of the fund if

a certificate were issued.

But he would know that in the

area director had to consider was

whether it was reasonable and

proper for the second and third

defendants to defray so much of

the costs of the proceedings as

would be payable out of the fund if

a certificate were issued.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6800

FAX:
0171 782 7899

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Study for the MSc in Business & Management at Scotland's top Business school

Research Rating - "5" Teaching Quality - "Excellent"

Study for your Masters Degree in Business and Management at the award winning Strathclyde Graduate Business School, Glasgow.

This is a one year full time postgraduate degree conducted in the company of bright, ambitious graduates like YOU. State-of-the-art teaching facilities and our forward thinking faculty will give you a thorough introduction to essential management concepts, preparing you for entry into the dynamic world of business and management.

The course is open to non Business Graduates only.

For more information contact:
SGBS Admissions and Information Office

Freephone 0800 66 1966 (UK only)

Fax: +44-141-552 2501/8851 (2 lines)

Tel: +44-141-559 6118/6119/6049 (3 lines)

Internet: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/SGBS>



POSTGRADUATE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Full-time places with European Social Fund bursaries are available for September 1997 on the following programmes:

- MSc Office Systems and Data Communications (for those aged under 25)
- MSc Management Studies (for women)
- MBA (for women)
- Certificates in Computer Programming (for those aged under 25)

Places are also available on the following programmes for all types of applicant:

- MSc Office Systems and Data Communications
- MSc Management Studies
- International MBA
- MA International Business Analysis

Contact: Faculty of Management & Business (ref T2). Tel: (01604) 735500 ext 2036.

NENE • NORTHAMPTON College of Higher Education

Park Campus, Boughton Green Road, Northampton NN2 7AL

An exempt charity offering Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degrees and Diplomas



Leeds University Business School MSc International Marketing Management

The course is specially designed to equip participants for a successful career in international marketing, either within a large multinational firm, a smaller business, or their own company. It is aimed at young, prospective managers who have recently completed their first degrees or are about to graduate in non-business or business-related subjects.

It contains innovative 'live' projects, not normally available at major universities, designed to apply skills to company work assignments, interacting with international firms. The degree is full-time, 12 months commencing in September.

Details of this programme, and application forms, are available from: The Postgraduate Secretary, Leeds University Business School, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT. Tel: 0113 233 2613.

Fax: 0113 233 2640.

E-mail: fee@ubs.leeds.ac.uk



Application packs are available from:

Graduate Admissions Department of Automatic Control and Systems Engineering The University of Sheffield Mappin Street, Sheffield, S1 3JD

Tel: 0114 222 5248 Email: pgacs-t@sheffield.ac.uk

This Department is one of the largest and most successful academic groups in the world devoted to this discipline. Our international reputation was recognised by the award of Grade 5A in the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



University of the West of England
BRISTOL

Postgraduate PGDip/MA/MFA/MPhil/PhD Courses

The Faculty of Art, Media and Design at UWE is growing into a leading centre for postgraduate study in art and design disciplines. The Faculty has excellent facilities including studio space, sound/TV studios, the latest computer imaging equipment and a specialised library. Lively research activity in printmaking, landscape studies, multi-media and cultural policy.

The Faculty offers the following full-time and part-time postgraduate programmes:

- Art Therapy
- Film Studies and European Cinema
- Landscape Studies
- Multidisciplinary Printmaking
- Fine Art in Context
- Research Degrees
- Extension Studies Art, Media and Design.

For further information contact:

The Faculty of Art, Media and Design, UWE Bristol, Bower Ashton Campus, Kernel Lodge Road, Bristol BS3 2JT. Telephone 0117 966 1222. Fax 0117 976 3946.

Promoting educational opportunity and the application of knowledge

De Montfort University, Leicester
ARE YOU A GRADUATE?

Thinking of a career as a SOLICITOR or BARRISTER?

Convert to law through the two year part-time CPE / POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LAW by distance learning (LPC also available)

For information and advice, quoting ref 772, please telephone

Richard Norrie or Valerie Webster: 01234 841010

Louise Zambertas or David Gisley: 0116 2551551

POSTGRADUATE OPEN EVENING

11 June, 5.30-7.30 at our Hendon campus

Find out more about:
Master of Business Administration (MBA)
MA Economics
MSc Financial Management
MA Human Resource Management
MSc Investment and Finance
MA Management Practice
MA Marketing Management
MA Money, Banking and Finance
MA Multi-Disciplinary
MA Personal and Organisational Development
MA Tourism and Hospitality Management
Diploma in Management Studies
Professional Diploma of the IPD
PGDip in Law/CPE

Here is your chance to plan for the future by finding out more about studying for a management degree at Middlesex University. Come along to an Open Evening and discover how you can benefit from the postgraduate programmes starting this year. It may help to make your future more certain!

The Open Evening is at Middlesex University Business School, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4. (Hendon Central (Northern line), Hendon BR station and 183 bus, and close by the A41/M1 junction.)

For further information please telephone 0181 362 6882, return the coupon or see our web site on <http://www.mdx.ac.uk>

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL



MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY

NAME
ADDRESS

Complete and post to:
Postgraduate Admissions
(ref C190C), Middlesex University Business School,
The Burroughs,
London NW4 4BT

Part time, Full time,
Open Access,
Distance learning

for graduates in Law,
taught & by research

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Master's Degrees and Advanced Diplomas in Education

The Institute of Education, University of London, is a world centre for the study of education.

We offer an unrivalled range of high quality, innovative part-time and full-time courses leading to Master's awards in primary education, in each of the subjects of the National Curriculum, and in such areas as educational management and administration and school effectiveness and school improvement. We also offer an Advanced Diploma programme which provides opportunities for the advanced study of a specialist area or areas, and serves as an access route for individuals not qualified for direct entry to Master's degree studies.

Our Master's and Diploma programme will interest professionals occupying teaching or management posts in schools, colleges, higher and further education, and local education authorities who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in a stimulating and supportive intellectual environment.

For further information about these and other programmes offered by the Institute, including the research degrees of MPhil, PhD and EdD, and the Associateships scheme, please contact: Student Programmes Office, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL.

Tel: 0171 612 6104; Fax 0171 612 6097;

E-mail: joanne.bull@ioe.ac.uk

Pursuing Excellence in Education

JOURNALISM — FOUR WEEK SUMMER SCHOOL

28 July - 23 August, London WC2. News reporting, feature writing, media law, Broadcast Journalism and DTP. Visit a 'Daily' and review exhibitions and the theme.

921 THE LONDON SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM 1997

Tel: 0171 636 8327 Fax: 0171 703 3783

E-mail: times@journalls.com

Career training for GRADUATES

• 12 week business career skills & Information Technology course designed to launch your career.

• Options in Marketing, Media, Accounts & Business Languages, Business Law, Business Computing & Job placement assistance.

Prospectus (01865) 240963

St. Odile's College
100 New Bond Street, London W1X 9SP

0171 636 8000 ext 5100 Fax 0171 580 7352

EDUCATION



Can the university you're looking at pass this examination?

Take a close look at

St. George's University School of Medicine.

Here's what you'll find:

■ Multi-national faculty of over 500 educators

■ Clinical programme conducted in affiliated hospitals in the United States and the United Kingdom

■ 88% pass rate for 1st-time takers in June 1996

United States Medical Licensing Exam, Part I

■ Safe, friendly environment conducive to learning

■ Entire programme conducted in English

■ Strong network of student support services

For more information, contact:

Office of Admissions, Dept. AUK7, St. George's University

School of Medicine, c/o The North American Correspondent: Medical

School Services, Ltd., One East

11706-8394, USA

Call: 1-516-665-8500

Fax: 1-516-665-5590

Email: sgu_info@sgu.edu

Include your address and phone number.

Our presentation will be held,

Monday, June 9, 1997

at the Kensington Park

De Vere Gardens

7-8:30 pm

Are
a
rea

St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GRENADA, West Indies
Look for us on the Internet —
<http://www.stgeorge.edu>

BUSINESS COURSES



THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Open Evening
5.30pm - 8.00pm

Wednesday
18th June 1997

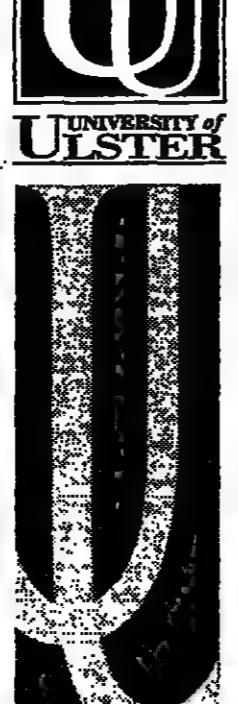
THE
BIRMINGHAM
BUSINESS
SCHOOL

EXECUTIVE MBA

by part-time study

- 8 modules, each of 8 days duration
- work based assignments
- 24-18 months to complete
- Next intake commences September 1997

For further details please telephone 0121 414 6693 or fax 0121 414 3553



UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Faculty of Social and Health Sciences and Education

School of Behavioural and Communication Sciences

Professor of Applied Psychology and Co-ordinator of Psychology and Communication at Magee College Ref: J97/103/E

Applications are invited for this key post in the School of Behavioural and Communication Sciences.

The Professor and Co-ordinator will be responsible for the operation and development of Psychology and Communication at Magee College.

At Magee College, the School of Behavioural and Communication Sciences is responsible for an honours degree in Organisational Science and diplomas and masters courses in Counselling, and has strong links with other Schools in the Faculty particularly Health Sciences and Social and Community Sciences. There is a strong research programme in Occupational Psychology, Counselling and Cognitive Psychology.

Applicants must have an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in Psychology providing GSR of the BPS, and a PhD or other evidence of significant research achievement in publications and research funding. Membership of an approved division of the BPS is desirable. They must have at least 5 years' experience in a leader of curriculum development and teaching in Applied Psychology in higher education. They must be research active and included in 1996 RAE.

Salary: Not less than £33,000
Closing Date: 25 July 1997
Interview Date: 28 August 1997

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Recruitment Office, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, Shore Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim BT37 0QB. Telephone (01232) 368222 or internal extension 6222.

An equal opportunity employer, the University of Ulster encourages applications from both men and women, those with disabilities and those from all sections of the community.

All applications will be considered on merit.

The University has a policy whereby smoking is restricted to designated areas.</



University of the
West of England

Postgraduate PGDip/
MA/MFA/MPhil/PhD
Courses

The Faculty of Art, Design and
Media, offering a range of postgraduate
and undergraduate courses in
the following disciplines:
- Art Therapy
- Film Studies and European Cinema
- Landscape Studies
- Media/Television
- Fine Art in Context
- Research Degrees
- Extension Studies, Art, Design and
Media, for Further Education

The Faculty of Art, Design and
Media, Severn Campus, Bristol,
B42 2ZU. Tel 0117 954 1242
Postgraduate prospectus available
from the Faculty of Art, Design and
Media, Severn Campus, Bristol,
B42 2ZU. Tel 0117 954 1242

Open Day
12 May 1997
12.30-4.30pm
Booking essential
0117 954 1242

Open Day
12 May 1997
12.30-4.30pm
Booking essential
0117 954 1242

EDUCATION

Vocations and doubts

GNVQs are not living up to their hype, says John O'Leary

Finding the alternative to academic qualifications which will command the respect of employers and academics, as well as maintaining the interest of teenagers, has become the Holy Grail of British education.

When the Conservative Government introduced the General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) in 1992, there was genuine hope that the search was over. Sixth-formers and college students flocked to join the programmes in such numbers that it seemed A levels would soon be eclipsed.

Five years later, however, doubts persist about the quality of courses and their direction. A report published today finds that GNVQs have not made the desired inroads into the student market and are losing an unacceptably high proportion of those who embark on courses. The author blames basic design faults, which leave the programmes falling between academic and vocational stools.

With David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, pledged to raise the status and standard of vocational qualifications, Professor Alison Wolf's four-year study could hardly be more timely. Her team at the London University Institute of Education has been monitoring the GNVQ for four years, and the backing of the Further Education Development Agency ensures that the findings will be taken seriously.

Professor Wolf's verdict on the qualification, which covers the intermediate and advanced awards, is not entirely negative. She acknowledges that the GNVQ has introduced vocational education into a substantial number of schools and become an accepted route into higher education, as well as preparing teenagers for employment in a limited number of fields.

However, the study finds that the courses do not represent the "broad preparation for employment" set out in the original brief, let alone satisfying the requirement for "equal standing" with academic qualifications. Even the take-up rate, which looked so promising at the outset, has proved disappoint-

ing. Professor Wolf says that the GNVQ has done little more than match the numbers taking the range of courses it replaced.

About 20 per cent of 16-year-olds are taking GNVQs, many in combination with A levels, compared with the target of 25 per cent set for 1996. But only about half are completing the qualification, according to today's report.

Early criticism of the low completion rates on GNVQ courses were met with heated denials, as officials insisted that the programmes were designed to be taken at the students' own pace. But Professor Wolf says:

"There is a limit to how long you can go on arguing that students are going to finish the course."

The figures are significantly lower than those in an assessment of the courses last month by the Office for Standards in Education, which covered schools alone. Inspectors, who noted a general improvement in the quality of courses, found that 80 per cent were receiving a qualification. The disparity suggests a much higher dropout rate in colleges, but may also reflect the smaller size of Ofsted's sample.

Even the GNVQ's most enthusiastic supporters would hardly have expected the qualification to have achieved "parity of esteem" with a national institution such as A levels at this stage in its development. In fact, the advanced courses are recruiting students with three or four high-grade GCSEs on average, the group immediately below the A-level intake.

The fashionable view of our tendency to cherish the academic above the vocational as a snobbish British eccentricity is, in any case, exaggerated. Professor Wolf says: "Every country has its hierarchy of qualifications, with the brightest kids taking the academic route."

She cites the absence of a requirement for courses to include work experience, although most do so in practice.

Professor Alan Smithers, who heads Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research and who has criticised the quality of vocational programmes, is pinning his hopes on a review of the GNVQ by government advisers to get the format right.

"We do need a practical alternative to A level," he says, "because a lot of people learn

better when they can apply their knowledge, but GNVQ started in the wrong place."

Like Professor Wolf, Professor Smithers believes the new Government must distinguish between the original National Vocational Qualifications, which were designed to be taken mainly in the workplace, and the school and college-based GNVQ.

"It is really applied, rather than vocational education, and to be successful it must have clear goals and take people to particular destinations."

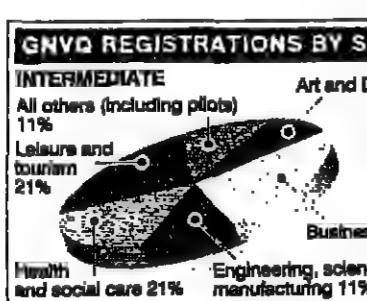
At present, two thirds of advanced GNVQ students are

aiming for higher education. Although three quarters of those who stay the course apply to universities or higher education colleges, the high dropout rate means that only about a fifth of the original intake win places on degree or diploma courses.

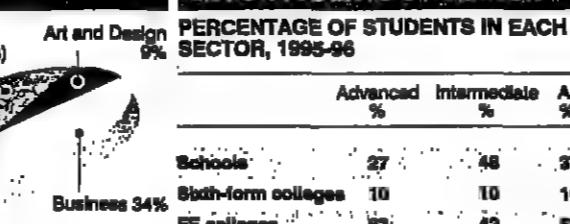
Mr Blunkett knows that a successful alternative to A level is essential if Britain's ambitious qualifications targets are to be met. Today's report suggests that, despite all the attention given to reforming the qualification's assessment regime, the GNVQ is far from the finished article.

tion is not fulfilling its vocational role."

GNVQ REGISTRATIONS BY SUBJECT, 1996-97



GNVQ STUDENTS BY SECTOR



PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN EACH SECTOR, 1995-96

Advanced Intermediate All % % %

Schools 27 48 37

Sixth-form colleges 10 10 10

FE colleges 34 33 33

Duncan Baxter on the abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme

Are we doing away with real choice?



which makes it attractive to prospective parents. These parents choose an independent education for many different reasons.

By maintaining a steady course, independent schools have avoided the stormy passage caused by the winds of an ever-changing national curriculum. Some parents will choose independent schools because their children require or prefer to be boarders; because they wish their children to go to a single sex school or a co-educational school; because they like the particular strengths of the school, its tradition or its location.

Whatever the reason, parents and children have a genuine choice when there is a system in place such as the Assisted Places Scheme. The

parents of boys and girls in my school want their children to have a relevant and broadly based education. If I feel — both as a headmaster and as a parent — that by sacrificing this scheme the money so released would help the state system, I would feel much happier about what has been proposed. This is not the case.

The entire cost of the scheme will make the difference of half a child per primary class. A phased withdrawal of the scheme will release only one seventh or one eighth of that amount annually and therefore will reduce a class by one sixteenth of a child. This is hardly a major contribution to the education system, and does not even take account of the fact that 37,000 children currently on the scheme will have to be educated by us in the future, thus adding again to the cost

● The author is Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School.

of the maintained system. In 1996 a MORI poll indicated that 55 per cent of people intending to vote Labour said they supported the scheme and nearly two thirds of those questioned believed there would still be a role for independent schools even if state schools achieved the same standards. In other words, what the new initiative ignores is the fact that people still favour choice for all when it comes to education.

Independent schools in the

United Kingdom have sup-

ported the scheme even when

the fees paid by the Gov-

ernment on behalf of the as-

sisted place holders have not

been increased in line with the full fees.

It is not unusual for a

school to be subsidising places

to the tune of a six-figure sum

so that the school remains

open to all who would benefit.

I am sure that independent

schools will refuse to be cut off

from our modern, diverse

pluralistic society. Indepen-

dent schools which have pio-

neered community service will

work even harder in these

areas to ensure that pupils are

aware of the needs and cir-

cumstances of those less for-

tunate than themselves. Links

with primary schools, some-

times involving Saturday

schools for pupils from the

maintained sector, will con-

tinue to play an important part

in the battery of links which

exist between independent and

state schools.

Schools will continue to

offer bursaries and scholar-

ships to enable children to

experience what an indepen-

dent school has to offer; they

already pay out more in

scholarships and bursaries

than they receive from the

financial benefits of charitable

status. Just because we are

independent does not mean we

have to be exclusive and our

doors will remain firmly open

despite the pressure to slam

them in our faces.

Why not let the communications of today help teach the generations of tomorrow?

The Internet is the world's largest information resource,

and with BT it can become your largest teaching resource.

BT CampusWorld is a secure area on the Internet

designed by education professionals, for education professionals.

It can give your pupils access to over 18,000 pages of

information on all subjects in the national curriculum of the UK.

* Internet service and call charges not included. Offer closes July 11th.

Why not take advantage of one month's free trial by

accessing <http://www.campus.bt.com/CampusWorld/> if

you're on the Internet? Or call BT on Lo-call 0345 573 393 if you're not.



Why not change the way we work?

1997/06/01/20

The importance of being learned

At 73, Ida Staples is a University Challenge star on a mission, reports Jennie Cox

SHE KNOWS which family of 16th and 17th-century Dutch artists included Pieter the Elder, has visited countries most can hardly place on a map and is working her way through a second university degree. But Ida Staples, the 73-year-old star of *University Challenge*, says even she does not dare attempt The Times cryptic crossword.

The Open University team Mrs Staples helped to two record-breaking scores were finally beaten 250-195 in the final by Magdalen College, Oxford, on Wednesday night. "We just couldn't get to the buzzer fast enough," she says.

Mrs Staples, who lives in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, is believed to be

the oldest person to have

appeared on *University Challenge*.

Having worked as a pharmacist and travelled widely she claims to have known the answers to all the medical questions.

"Yet at school I never really liked the sciences," she says.

"I was always good at languages and loved the arts."

Being the youngest and "only a girl" to elderly Victorian parents, she was not allowed to follow one of her older brothers to university, so got a job at a local chemist and qualified in pharmacy at the suggestion of one of her bosses. "I hated it. It was only ever a job to do, but I saw the advantages and used it to get work when I travelled," she says.

Languages were not on offer when Mrs Staples resumed her education with the Open University in 1988 after the death of her second husband, so she chose to do arts. After four years of subjects including the 19th Century Novel and its Legacy, Art in 15th-Century Italy and Man's Religious Quest, she achieved an honours degree.

Mr Blunkett knows that a successful alternative to A level is essential if Britain's ambitious qualifications targets are to be met. Today's report suggests that, despite all the attention given to reforming the qualification's assessment regime, the GNVQ is far from the finished article.

GNVQs are not living up to their hype, says John O'Leary

sometimes think. "What on earth are you doing all this for? But then I say, 'What would you be doing if you were not?'

"When you are widowed, people will tell you what you should do but will do nothing to actually help you. They have no idea what it is really like." One asked if she was

RUGBY UNION: REDMAN SUMMONED FROM ARGENTINA TO REPLACE INJURED SCOT

Injury threatens Weir's career

FROM DAVID HANNS IN PRETORIA

FRAN COTTON made it clear yesterday that the British Isles party expect disciplinary action to be taken by Mpumalanga officials over the foul play in Witbank on Wednesday that ended Doddie Weir's tour and threatens his immediate future in the game. A scan of his knee revealed significant structural damage and the Scotland lock will require further specialist advice before undergoing surgery.

Weir, who will be replaced by Nigel Redman, the veteran Bath and England lock, was distraught. He had hoped that immobilisation of the knee over an eight-week period would suffice but Cotton, the Lions manager, said the damage suffered when Marius Bosman, the Mpumalanga lock, kicked him during the Lions' 64-14 victory was far more serious than first thought. Weir will leave for home after the game here tomorrow against Northern Transvaal.

"If that player [Bosman] had been cited he would probably have had a minimum of 60 days' suspension," Cotton said. "My priority is that Lions squad players are appropriately protected by the referee. In my view there are certain incidents on a rugby field where there are no second chances for a player, and that was one of them."

Cotton believes that both Bosman and Elandrie van der Berg, the other Mpumalanga lock, should be the subjects of disciplinary action and if that is not taken, one option would be to sue the offending union. Weir will lose a substantial proportion of his tour fee of £10,000 and there may be a question of compensation — covered by the two-tier insurance policy adopted by the four home unions — to be paid to Newcastle. Weir's club, should he be unavailable in the new season.

Hennie Erasmus, the Mpumalanga president, and his executive committee were due to view the match video last night and Cotton expects punitive action. There are probably a dozen incidents involving the same player of

stamping, punching, headbutting; he went through the whole repertoire," he said. "It was sickening."

Redman, 32, will join the Lions this morning, though his sudden departure will bring little pleasure to Jack Rowell, the England coach, as he prepares for the second international with Argentina in Buenos Aires tomorrow. Rowell has already conceded — with reluctance — Mike Catt to the Lions as a replacement for the injured Paul Grayson.

It is a singular honour for the willing Redman, first capped against Australia in 1984. The twentieth Englishman to be lionised this summer, he is with England only because of Martin Bayfield's withdrawal from that tour, and the Lions need him because so many younger alternatives are injured. But his ability to perform is in no doubt, Bath being familiar with the style of rugby the Lions play.

Meanwhile, the Lions will take the field at Loftus Versfeld tomorrow with yet another combination at back row, Eric Miller, recovering from a damaged cheekbone, plays his second tour game at open-side flanker — Richard Hill being ruled out with a sore calf — and Scott Quinnell, recovered from a bruised shoulder, plays at No 8.

Jeremy Guscott and Alan Tait, one of four Newcastle players in the back division, resume a profitable partnership at centre, and Scott Gibbs, who damaged his ankle in the mud against Border, is fit enough to be among the replacements and eager to make up for lost time. Catt, who sees distinct similarities between the style of England's play in Argentina and that of the Lions, will also be on the bench.

Grewcock, 24, 6ft 6in and 17st, leaps ahead of David Baldwin after an impressive performance against Cuyo on Tuesday, when he scored a try. The departure at such short notice of Redman is a serious blow, but will only harden England's resolve to win the series.

Before this latest turn of



Redman will become the twentieth Englishman to join the 1997 Lions

Grewcock awarded first cap

FROM MARK SOISTER IN BUENOS AIRES

TWO days before the second international against Argentina, an England tour that has been full of surprises took another unexpected twist yesterday when Jack Rowell, the coach, was forced to contend with the loss of another key element of his team, Nigel Redman, to the British Isles in South Africa and shuttle his deck. His ace, he hopes, will be Danny Grewcock, the Coventry lock forward, who will become the ninth new player to be capped on this tour.

Grewcock, 24, 6ft 6in and 17st, leaps ahead of David Baldwin after an impressive performance against Cuyo on Tuesday, when he scored a try. The departure at such short notice of Redman is a serious blow, but will only harden England's resolve to win the series.

Before this latest turn of

events, England had contemplated only one enforced change to the team that finished the first international. Mark Mapletoft was selected at stand-off half in place of Mike Catt, who left Argentina on Monday to link up with the Lions, mainly because of the need for a reliable goalkicker, although Alex King can count himself unlucky to miss out.

Mapletoft, 26, has taken in his stride the disappointment of missing four successive penalty attempts against Buenos Aires, any one of which would have ensured that England meet Argentina tomorrow with a 100 per cent tour record.

"It is a measure of how you react, and I had a good game against Argentina A," Mapletoft said. "The way this year has gone, if I was younger, I would be flabbergasted by

what has happened. I am pleasantly surprised to be capped and, after all, a cap is a cap."

Phil de Glanville, the captain, said that it had been a close decision between the two players, "but a major factor is goal-kicking and that was the most important decision we had to take."

The team otherwise picked itself, although doubts remain about the fitness of Jim Mallinder, who remains at full back, Adedaya Adebayo and Kevin Yates, who are all receiving treatment.

ENGLAND: J. Mallinder (Saracens), J. Mapletoft (Saracens), N. J. G. Garside (Worcester), P. de Glanville (London Wasps), M. Catt (Leicester), A. King (Bath), M. S. Mapletoft (Gosforth), K. Yates (Saracens), R. Cockerill (Lancaster), D. J. Gifford (Leicester), J. C. G. Garside (Bath), D. G. Garside (Covington), C. H. H. R. R. B. Clarke (Richmond), A. J. D. D. (Saracens), R. J. E. C. J. B. C. (Bath), A. King (Worcester), J. C. T. G. G. (Wasps), C. M. A. Steer (Wasps), S. Diamond (Sale), R. J. R. Hardwick (Covington).

APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING THREE CHAIRS IN INFORMATICS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, COGNITIVE SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE

The University intends to appoint three Chairs in Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Science, and Computer Science. These posts are being filled to sustain and develop Edinburgh's identity as a centre of the highest international quality for research and teaching in Informatics. Applications are invited from candidates with an established international reputation in research. The salary will be on the Professorial scale.

The University of Edinburgh has a broad vision of Informatics, as the study of the structure, behaviour, and design of computational systems, both artificial and natural. This includes the established disciplines of Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Cognitive Science. It also links with other Sciences: Mathematical, Engineering, Natural and Social. Candidates whose interests cross traditional boundaries and who are committed to encouraging closer interaction between existing disciplines are particularly welcome.

Informatics seeks a common basis for understanding computation, communication, and cognition. It is becoming a fundamental science in its own right, and will play a key role, intellectually, socially and economically, in the future development of science and engineering. Edinburgh's breadth of expertise provides an ideal environment for developing this new science.

In the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise, the work of the Informatics Planning Unit (Department of Computer Science, Department of Artificial Intelligence, Human Communication Research Centre, Centre for Cognitive Science) was assessed, together with that of the Artificial Intelligence Applications Institute, under the Computer Science Unit of Assessment. The outcome confirms Edinburgh's status as the largest UK concentration of excellence in this area.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering's strategic plan includes a commitment of resources to develop Edinburgh's vision of Informatics. Successful candidates will be expected to provide research leadership and to play an active role in developing and implementing this strategy. Additional academic posts will be created, following the chair appointments.

Please quote ref 79635511

Further information may be obtained from the World Wide Web at www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/~ipu/ or for informal contact Prof. Michael Fourman, Head of Informatics Planning Unit, and Head of Department, Computer Science by telephone: +44 (0)131 650 5197; or e-mail: ipu@dcs.ed.ac.uk or Dr. Peter Ross, Head of Department, Artificial Intelligence (+44 (0)131 650 3090; pete@dcs.ed.ac.uk), or Prof. Keith Stenning, Director, Human Communication Research Centre (+44 (0)131 650 4444; kath@cogsci.ed.ac.uk, or Dr. Ewan Klein, Head of Department, Centre for Cognitive Science (+44 (0)131 650 4426; cogsci@ed.ac.uk).

Further particulars including details of the application procedure should be obtained from

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT,
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
1 ROXBURGH STREET, EDINBURGH EH8 9TB
Tel: 0131 650 2511 (24 hour answering service).
<http://www.admin.ed.ac.uk/personnel/recruit.htm>

Closing date: 27 June 1997

COURSES

WebMaster™
Internet Technology
NVQ Level 2 Home Study Course
Train For A New Career In
Internet Consultancy and Web Site Design
For more information call:
Visual Software Technology
0151 475 2898

Challenge
1-2 wks Private HomeStudy
& Business French
Sorbonne University-Paris
Nantes, Poitiers & Toulouse
Academic Year, Semester, Summer
3 month specialised courses
Advanced Diploma in French &
Paris Chamber of Commerce exam
Tel: 01273 220261

The Language Specialists
French Courses in France
TEENAGERS - ADULTS
Call Annabelle on 0171 734 7224
For your free brochure
Centre Français de Londres

POSTS

Trinity College London

The International Examinations Board

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & SPEECH EXAMINATIONS

(Salary: £32,000 p.a. plus excellent benefits)

The Board seeks to appoint a Director of Music and Speech Examinations who will be responsible for the management and development of Grade and Diploma Examinations in Music and Drama & Speech throughout the UK and overseas.

Candidates should possess a University degree or equivalent qualification and a record of success in Arts administration. Experience in marketing would be an important advantage. This post represents a challenging and exciting opportunity for a strongly motivated person to advance the Board's rapidly growing candidate base.

For an application form and further details please contact:
Juliet Hunter, Trinity College London, 20 Park Crescent, London WIN 4AP
Tel: 0171 323 2328 Fax: 0171 323 5201 e-mail: info@trinitycollege.co.uk

BUSINESS COURSES

DISTANCE LEARNING AND FULL TIME

The Leicester MBA MSc in Marketing or Finance Diploma in Management Certificate in Management

Leicester University Management Centre

Fast track your
Management Career
with a quality qualification

Freephone 0800 374024
for an information pack (24 hr)
01203 422422
10 Spots is a consultant

RDI Freephone (0209) 212472 Coventry CV4 8PR
Fax: 01203 422423 email: info@rdi.co.uk
<http://www.rdi.co.uk/rdi/>

COURSES

Trust the Specialists

Recognised by the French Government

FRENCH COURSES IN FRANCE

TEENAGERS - ADULTS

Call Annabelle on 0171 734 7224

For your free brochure

Centre Français de Londres

APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Lecturer in Telecommunications

This appointment provides an opportunity to join a leading department, continuing recent major developments in telecommunications at UCL including the London-East Anglia Research Network Initiative.

The individual appointed will play a full part in the operation and further evolution of our telecommunications activities, encompassing research and teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. A research focus relating to network and services management would be especially valued.

The appointment will be on Lecturer Scale B in the salary range £21,894 to £27,985 per annum plus £2,184 per London Allowance. The closing date for formal applications will be Monday 30 June 1997, with final selection by interview in July.

Further information can be found under 'situations vacant' at <http://www.ee.eleceng.ucl.ac.uk>. Enquiries may be directed to Professor Chris Todd (email: c.todd@eleceng.ucl.ac.uk or tel: 0171 380 7307) to whom applications should be submitted.

Working towards Equal Opportunity

COURSES

WANTED

Sharp-eyed People

After a Chapterhouse training course
we hope you will keep in touch

£20 up to £120.00 from home, proofreading and editing books.
Don't just take our word for it... read what our students say.

Dear Chapterhouse:
I started to do the course whilst out of work. Since then I received my first set of work I became employed with a publishing company. I am now proofreading our publications (a job I gained because of my training at Chapterhouse).

SS (Student)

Dear Chapterhouse:
At long last I am sending you the Chapterhouse Assessment to be marked. I really enjoyed doing the course and now work 3 days a week at a Publishing Co. on a freelance basis. Thank you very much for all your help and expertise.

CG (Student)

Dear Chapterhouse:
I am very much for an advertising, if I can't get a job in advertising I will be a proofreader. I have already managed to get a few freelance jobs with an Oxford Publisher, so I think I will definitely worth your effort.

IN (Student)

Full training from professional publishers
by experienced course leaders
or by self-study

From only £29.00 for full proofreading course.

Free Prospectus, including lots of success stories from Chapterhouse, 2 Southwark West, Exeter EX1 1LG
Phone (01392) 499485 Fax (01392) 499005

CHAPTERHOUSE

6 Years Successful Training

CARTOONING

"Cartooning Cartoons & Illustrators" Course 10 weeks Diploma Course by correspondence. Study at home for a new career or profitable second income.

For a free prospectus, call

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

0800 371 500

■ VISUAL ART
The architect
Sandy Wilson
displays his
superb drawing
collection in
Chichester

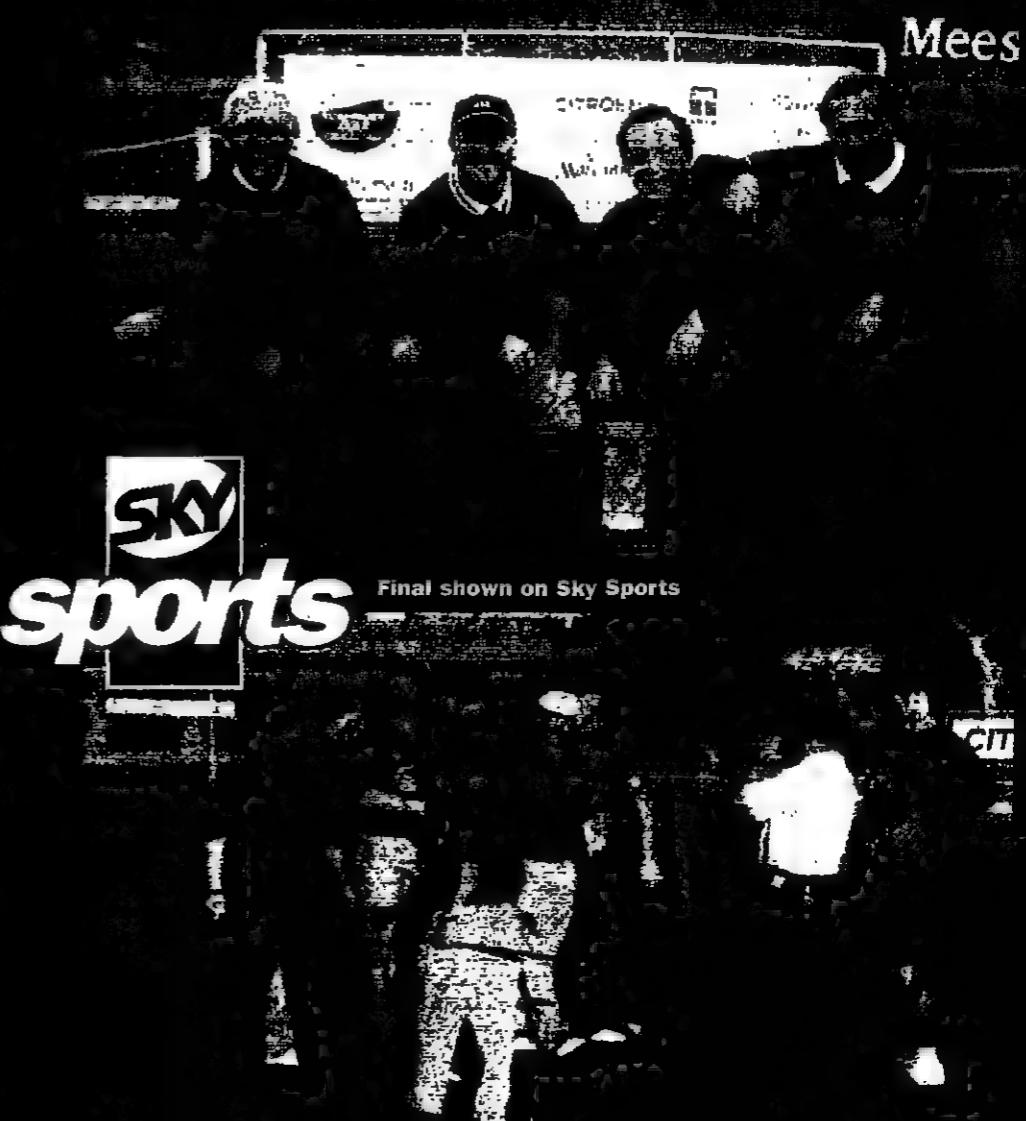
figures

Join the Company Golf Day Challenge



In '96 nearly
1000 Companies
entered the Challenge

Make sure your Company enters in '97



SKY
sports Final shown on Sky Sports

Above: 1996 Entries

— TITLE SPONSORS —

Mees Pierson
MERCHANT BANKERS SINCE 1760

— ASSOCIATE SPONSORS —



GOLF
WORLD

CITROËN

WATERFORD CRYSTAL

Marriott
HOTELS, RESORTS & SUITES

BM
British Midland

— OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS —

Titleist

GOLF

Barwell

FIBERNET

Register Now!

1 Internet Site -
<http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorpgolf/>

2 Faxback on 0660 600667
Calls cost 49p per min at all times.

For any other enquiries contact the Challenge office on

405 7273

CRICKET

Master and pupil relish timely reversal of roles

BY SIMON WILDE

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 18 runs ahead of Leicestershire

MIKE GATTING'S smartest move of the season may prove to be resigning the Middlesex captaincy last week. It was not a decision that was eagerly awaited, but it appears to have revitalised a dressing-room that has always done best when ideas flow freely among the senior professionals. This shake-up has surely ensured that, whatever the reason, Middlesex once again look like a side that is going places.

They had about as good a day as they could have wished for yesterday and it was the old heads, Gattting, Mark Ramprakash, his successor, and Angus Fraser, the leading bowler, who had most to do with it. Fraser completed figures of six for 77, his best for three years, and Gattting and Ramprakash both scored nineties, sharing a partnership of 178 in 49 overs that may go a long way towards deciding this match.

When bad light brought an early close, Middlesex were



Gattting: delighted

298 for four, a lead of 18, and in the driving seat, though they still have a fair bit to do before victory is secured.

Nevertheless, the signs are encouraging. Gattting played brightly for his 28 in the last hour's Stygian gloom and Pierson and Brimson, the Leicestershire spinners, are finding enough purchase in the pitch to have Tufnell licking his fingers at the prospect of the work to come.

Middlesex set the tone for the day by mopping up the last three Leicestershire wickets

for 13 runs with the second new ball, the champions being all out 40 minutes into the morning. Fraser removed Whitaker for the addition of two to his overnight 108, Hewitt had Brimson leg-before and so anxious were Leicestershire to gain another batting point that Smith was then sent out again, despite his broken finger.

The task of scoring another 26 runs was well beyond Mullally, who was soon the fifth man to have his stumps rattled by Fraser, who last took six wickets or more in an innings in the Bridgetown Test of April 1994. He last took six in a championship innings against these same opponents in August 1993, a performance that sealed his return to the English side.

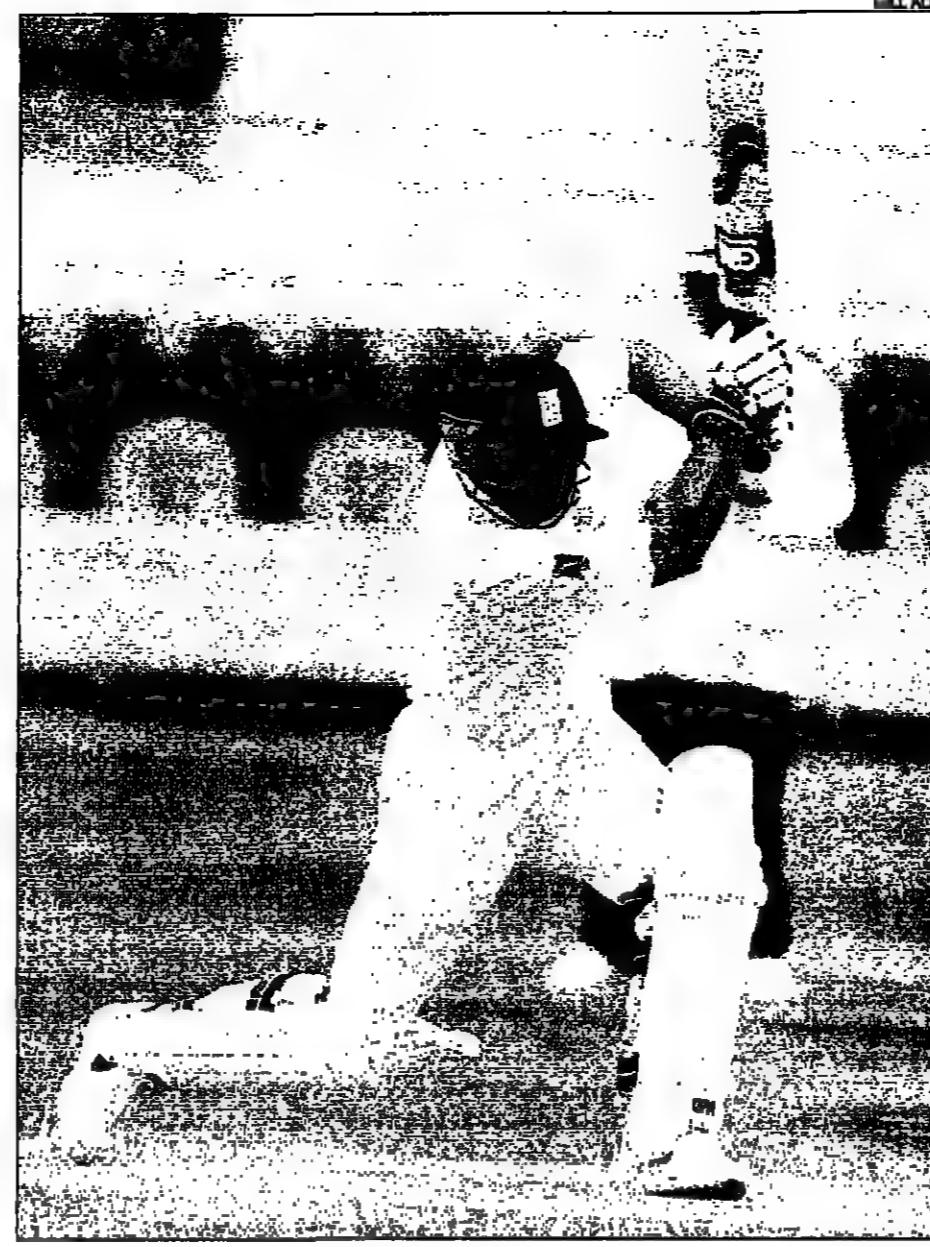
Middlesex, in turn, struggled before lunch. They lost their openers, Kallis and Weeks, who was bowled by the last ball of the session attempting to punish a full toss from Pierson. Mullally and Parsons had maintained a firm strangulation, at one time delivering six successive maidens.

But after lunch, out strode Gattting to accompany Ramprakash, his protégé of so many years, and they were quickly going about their business with the old panache. No sooner did Ramprakash cut Mullally than the idea occurred to Gattting: no sooner did Gattting punch the ball through the covers, than Ramprakash followed suit. Leicestershire sorely missed the bursting presence of Milns, particularly Mullally.

The Middlesex captains past and present clearly relish their reversal of roles. Gattting describes the absence of responsibility as "lovely" and in Ramprakash's first championship match in charge, against Northamptonshire, they shared a stand of 187 and each scored hundreds.

A repeat performance looked inevitable after they put on 145 between lunch and tea. But Ramprakash, looking for the boundary that would have given him a fourth hundred of the season, carelessly drove into the hands of cover. Gattting chopped the ball into stumps attempting to cut Pierson, seven short of his 93rd hundred. He was furious — and it was generous of the Leicestershire players to applaud him all the way back to the pavilion.

Law was the third injury of the day, the others being Adrian Dale, who ricked his back before play began and the umpire, Mervyn Kitchen, who hobbled off at teatime with a bad ankle.



Ramprakash drives handsomely through the covers during his innings of 97

Glamorgan pair feast on wayward bowling

BY BARNEY SPENDER

THE PARKS (first day of three; Glamorgan won toss): Oxford University, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 348 runs behind Glamorgan

OXFORD University's bowling suffered severely at the hands of two young Glamorgan batsmen yesterday. Mike Powell and Gary Butcher were helped in their quest by an unhealthy proportion of wayward deliveries and some sloppy ground fielding, but that should not detract too much from two highly-accomplished innings.

Powell, a tall right-hander from Abergavenny with a penchant for driving through the off side, has hit four centuries in five games for the second team this season and immediately looked at home. He raced to his fifty from just 58 balls and, by the time Glamorgan declared, he was 200 not out, only the third "Englishman" to make a double century on his debut this

century, after Hubert Doggart in 1948 and David Sless last year. He struck 31 fours and a six from 213 balls. Butcher was equally savage. His first 45, which came before tea, took 41 balls while the next 55, after the interval, arrived from a further 23. The declaration came half an hour after tea when both men reached their respective landmarks in the same over.

The way Oxford came out to bat, however, suggests a team with some character.

Thomas removed Hudson in the first over but Mark Wagh, their captain, played a delightful and forceful innings of 56 not out. He posted 48 of his first 50 run in boundaries and also removed Law from the action when a fierce blow struck him on the elbow.

Law was the third injury of the day, the others being Adrian Dale, who ricked his back before play began and the umpire, Mervyn Kitchen, who hobbled off at teatime with a bad ankle.

Speight displaying signs of mastering new challenge

BY DEREK HODGSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 64 runs behind Sussex

MARTIN SPEIGHT is remembered for a glorious half-century for Sussex against Warwickshire in the 1993 NatWest Trophy final. It was considered, that day, that a new star had risen in the southern sky. For three years, living up to that performance proved difficult: loss of form, illness and finally a break with Sussex taking him to Sussex.

As Durham's new wicket-keeper-batsman, he has not been an overnight success, but, by dint of hard graft and the addition of a little northern grit, he is beginning to prosper in his new surroundings. He has started by putting one over on Sussex.

At 107 for four, with Durham still 266 behind, Speight joined a tenacious Jonathan Brown who eventually cleaned up, having Jarvis well caught at slip. Amer Khan caught behind and, finally, Moores caught at first slip. The Moores-Jarvis partnership was worth 63 in 18 overs. Vasbert Drakes drove Mike Roseberry back on to his stumps and John Morris then played an innings either side of lunch that lifted this match above the mundane. Jarvis was plundered for 31 in three overs; Morris cracked seven fours and had taken 48 of 55 balls when he went to drive Drakes and played on. "Lovely shots," a Durham man murmured, but what was needed was a very dull 150.

Drakes by then, had hit the length. Nick Speak was torpeded by a ball that might have burrowed underground and David Boon, who was starting to show a liking for Amer Khan's leg spin, was caught in front by another languidly-delivered grenade from Drakes.

Paul Jarvis put paid to Durham's hopes of a quick end to the overnight Sussex innings. He took 11 off Simon Brown's first over, but it was

Lewis to put on 77 in 20 overs that effectively laid the spectre of a follow-on. He then spent another 20 overs, after Lewis's 141-ball innings had been ended by a catch behind, acting as a role model for Mike Foster, who is definitely more of a hitter than a blocker. They added 60 for the sixth wicket and the Speight story was developing nicely when Mark Robinson found some extra bounce and he was out, caught at first slip, for 49.

Time was as important as the runs. He had batted for 2½ hours, faced 137 balls, shored up the middle when cracks were widening and demonstrated that Durham are not obliged to collapse. Foster carried on the resistance and the match is not far off balance, Robinson again finding the spot at the Lumley end.

Paul Jarvis put paid to Durham's hopes of a quick end to the overnight Sussex innings. He took 11 off Simon Brown's first over, but it was

Paul Jarvis put paid to Durham's hopes of a quick end to the overnight Sussex innings. He took 11 off Simon Brown's first over, but it was

BOXING

Last chance for Graham to impress

HEROL GRAHAM is to get another chance to convince the doubters that he is capable of carrying on boxing (Srikumar Sen writes). The former British, European and Commonwealth middleweight champion, 37, has had two contests since his comeback seven months ago but has not looked good enough to compete at world level.

Frank Maloney, his promoter, has matched him with Chris Johnson, of Canada, the No 8 super-middleweight in the world. If Graham wins, he can reasonably expect to get a world title bout: if he loses he will almost certainly have to look for other employment.

Maloney said yesterday: "If he wins he'll get a world title fight and he'll deserve it."

Graham will be appearing on a card at Olympia on July 12 that will be headed by Spencer Oliver's defence of the European super-bantamweight title he won three weeks ago at Picketts Lock, Edmonton.

Oliver, of Finchley, meets Serge Poilblanc, of France, who is thought to be better than Martin Krastev, of Bulgaria, the champion, whom Oliver stopped in two rounds to win the title.

GOLF: BARMAN SAVOURS TASTE OF MORNING GLORY WITH AMATEURS WHILE PROFESSIONAL MAKES FINE RETURN TO TOUR

Price brought down to earth by decisive birdie barrage

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THEY do not come much more amateur than Rhodri Price, 23, who works as a barman in the Swan Hotel in Abergavenny one night a week to earn money towards the cost of playing amateur golf full-time. "I am living off my parents," Price admitted after reaching the last 16 of the Amateur Championship at Royal St George's.

"My father takes me everywhere. I am aware of him when he watches me play. It would be hard not to. He is always falling into bunkers, that sort of thing."

Having beaten Matt Carver, the Walker Cup squad member, Price was as high as 16th over the many of the holes at Sandwich yesterday morning. "What fun amateur golf is," Price said. "I am not sure I am going to turn professional. It is so competitive. What a wonderful course this is. It's a thinking man's

HUGH ROMNEY

course. I must be a thinking man."

By the afternoon he was a tired and disappointed man, unsure whether he should journey to north Wales to compete in a leading event there. He had been comfortably beaten by James Clive, a Scot. It was all square at the turn but then Price missed the green on the short 11th and three-punted and Clive birdied the 12th, 13th and 14th. Clive is a long hitter and playing well and this is a difficult combination to face on a course over which a rising wind, first from the north-east and later the south-east, was blowing.

Barclay Howard, Britain's best amateur, dismissed Wales's only other competitor when he beat David Park just by being steadier. Howard, 44, had had a fright in the morning, being taken to the 19th by Jacques Thalmy, of France, but he always had the

Brooks's boot.

Brooks had not chipped particularly well against Colin Edwards, who has won 52 caps for England. There was a moderate one from the back of the 9th, another on the 11th. Still, he sank a 25ft putt to level the match on the 17th only to chip poorly on the last. So Edwards, 33, will play Howard this morning.

It was Price who explained how matchplay should be played. "When he makes a mistake, he is supposed to lose the hole. That's the idea isn't it?" Price said. That certainly applied to Justin Rose, the gifted young Englishman as he crushed Jose Maria Lara, of Spain. Rose did not put a foot wrong and was four under par for the 13 holes played.

But after lunch, it was a different matter. Sam Little, 21, who had been three under par for 15 holes in the morning, continued in a similar vein to beat Rose, 16, and reach the last eight.

BY MEL WEBB

A CAR door, an injured left thumb and a minor surgical procedure involving an item of office equipment were the unlikely ingredients of a yarn that was related yesterday by the young Midlander who took the lead in the first round of the Compaq European Grand Prix. Those of a delicate disposition should stop reading now and skip a few paragraphs before rejoining the rest of this piece.

The narrator of the tale was Steve Webster, who shot a 66 at Slaty Hall in Northumberland to lead Padraig Harrington and Fredrik Andersson by a shot and a multinational group of four, which comprised an Englishman, a Swede, a Spaniard and an Italian, by two. Colin Montgomerie had a 69 to be three behind.

Webster had not chipped particularly well against Colin Edwards, who has won 52 caps for England. There was a moderate one from the back of the 9th, another on the 11th. Still, he sank a 25ft putt to level the match on the 17th only to chip poorly on the last. So Edwards, 33, will play Howard this morning.

It was Price who explained how matchplay should be played. "When he makes a mistake, he is supposed to lose the hole. That's the idea isn't it?" Price said. That certainly applied to Justin Rose, the gifted young Englishman as he crushed Jose Maria Lara, of Spain. Rose did not put a foot wrong and was four under par for the 13 holes played.

But after lunch, it was a different matter. Sam Little, 21, who had been three under par for 15 holes in the morning, continued in a similar vein to beat Rose, 16, and reach the last eight.

Webster, short and slight, won the silver medal for being the best amateur in the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews, turned professional and won the qualifying tour school at the end of that year. The playing card he achieved there was promptly lost at the end of 1996 after he had played in 28 tournaments and missed the cut in 21 of them. He finished 129th in the order of merit — he needed to improve to be dreadful.

The treatment sounded like something close to mediaeval

short but vivid stream of foul oaths and a good deal of agony.

Webster did not hit a ball for four days, and was close to pulling out of the tournament, but decided to make a visit to his GP before doing so. The good doctor made an immediate diagnosis and outlined the treatment he proposed. It is here that the episode turns seriously grisly.

The treatment sounded like something close to mediaeval

Scores 46

torture, involving as it did a paperclip that was held over a flame then plunged into the offending nail by the doctor to relieve the pressure of the blood behind the nail. Webster said he had felt a little faint after the procedure and had had to lie down for a while, which is hardly surprising. Just writing about it induces an attack of the vapours.

The upshot of it all was that Webster, 22, had his hand having stopped spinning. Armed with a new putter, he produced an eagle three, holing from 15 feet at the 4th, six birdies and only two bogeys to prove that few things concentrate the mind more than a bit of good old-fashioned pain.

HOCKEY

Britain again goalless in fourth defeat

MAGGIE SOUYAVE, the Great Britain coach, must be wondering where her team's first goal will come from after the 3-0 defeat by Germany in the Champions Trophy in Berlin yesterday.

The British team have failed to score in four games here. Poor basic skills, sloppy passing and a complete lack of clinical finishing have all contributed to their four successive defeats, and Souyave will be left with no option but to drop some of the England team, who are representing Britain in Berlin, before the World Cup qualifier in Harare in August.

Errors by Karen Brown, one of Souyave's most experienced defenders, led to two of the German goals. After intercepting Brown's weak clearance, Natascha Keller gave Germany a 24th minute lead. Britain had chances to level the scores but Jane Sixsmith and Tina Cullen were off-target, and Jane Smith's penalty corner effort flew harmlessly wide.

The hosts went 2-0 ahead through Karin Kauschke in the 52nd minute after Britain's defence was caught napping at a free hit.

Seven minutes later, Brown was again at fault as Heike Latzsch scored from close range to complete the scoring.

CRICKETLINE
ENGLAND V
AUSTRALIA
EXCLUSIVE LIVE
COMMENTARY
0930 161 567
REPORTS & SCORES
0930 161 555
THE OFFICIAL SERVICE
OF THE ENGLAND & WALES
CRICKET BOARD



Price gets down to the task of lining up his putt

Battling batting gives Kent narrow advantage

BY IVO TENNANT

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (second day of four): Kent, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 537 runs behind Warwickshire

EVEN on the most correctly prepared of pitches, when the attack is shorn of its overseas fast bowler and its leading spinner, batting can be a troublesome art. Kent had quite a struggle yesterday to reach Warwickshire's total of 314. The most notable innings came from David Fulton, who made 73, and Alan Wells, who eked out 70.

Fulton has made centuries against both the ancient universities, but has yet to take one off county opposition. Given that he is in the sixth season since his debut, this will be concerning him as much as his club. He looked the part until he edged one that Brown swung away, the movement accentuated by the mugginess of the air.

This was the most authoritative innings yesterday. Wells, by contrast, collected his runs more carefully until he lifted Smith for two sixes. He, too, was on his way to a century, having made his runs off 138 balls, when he was yorked by Edmund. Kent have seen him at his best only once this season, when he took on Waqar Younis, but consistent contributions will surely come.

The ball swung a little, as on the first day, and Kent like Warwickshire, did not cope with it as best they might. Walker went in the first over of the day, to a good, low catch by Frost. Ward struck six fours in his customary dominant way before he was leg-before to Brown, on the front foot.

There were further misjudgments. Marsh shuffled across his stumps and was leg-before to Brown. Strang swept at Smith and was bowled off his front pad. Such was the bowler's delight at taking his first wicket of the season in first-class cricket that, in papal manner, he bent down and kissed the turf.

The wickets that Small and Edmund took were also their first of the season in the championship. It is a wonder that Warwickshire are in the upper reaches of the table.

Without Donald and Giles, they had much difficulty in breaking the ninth-wicket pairing of Thompson and

Brown assumes lead role in repeat performance

By JACK BAILEY



THE OVAL (second day of four): Essex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 107 runs ahead of Surrey

DIFFERENT actors in different roles and slight variations in the plot, but by and large the same play as on Wednesday was enacted before an Oval crowd, most of them with both ears on the Test match. The leading part of saviour of the side was yesterday given a more flamboyant interpretation by Alison Brown than by his Essex counterpart, Darren Robinson, on the previous day, and there were other variables on the basic theme, but the similarities were extraordinary.

CRICKET

Lancashire show little appetite for uphill task

By PAT GIBSON

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset (20pts) beat Lancashire (4) by seven wickets

WHEN people talk about splitting the county championship into two divisions, Lancashire blithely assume that they will be in the Premiership like their neighbours at the other Old Trafford. If they carry on playing like they did in this match they would be lucky to get into the third division north.

It could be said that their performance improved by about 100 per cent between the first day and the second since they scored almost twice as many runs and resisted for nearly twice as many overs. Yet they were still humiliated

Whatever it was, Lancashire, resuming at 40 for one with 61 required just to avoid an innings defeat, were soon in further trouble when Shine bowled Chapple as the night watchman launched himself into an optimistic drive which was set to the pattern for the innings.

Shine's swing quickly did for Titchard as well before van Troost, at last free from injury and bowling with greater accuracy than he has done in seven seasons since arriving from Holland, exposed Lloyd's lack of technique against genuine fast bowling. Lloyd had almost run himself out first ball in his eagerness to escape a "pair" but that only took him to van Troost's end. Twice he played and missed, once he slashed desperately for four, and finally, he almost flinched away from a short ball which took the edge on its way to the wicketkeeper.

Fairbrother then sliced an attempted drive to gully to give the admirable Shine ten wickets in a match for the first time and all that remained were the flailing bats of Watkinson, Austin, Hegg and Martin, the latter sensationaly caught by Mushtaq running fully 30 yards from third man to backward point. Austin was bowled trying to hit a second six into the river.

"Send on the clowns", scoffed one disgruntled Lancastrian as his side took the field to try to prevent Somerset scoring a mere 64 to win. But to be fair, they did make the batsmen work hard for the runs before Mushtaq settled the issue with two clubbing fours.

Surrey did rather over-play the essential plot-line in the first act: a collapse by the early order. They took matters to the extremes of dramatic tension by losing their first six wickets for 107. But this only served to make the eventual recovery to within 67 of Essex's first innings more exciting and in Brown they had a performer outstanding for the role.

Brown had not made a championship century for Surrey since he scored one at Canterbury in August 1995. The right mix of natural flair and sensible caution has escaped him. Yesterday, though, it looked as if he had found a new maturity. He received a nasty knock on his right hand when he had made 67, but he went on playing his shots,

often taking the bottom, injured hand, off the bat as he did so.

After the Surrey innings, Brown went for a precautionary X-ray and no fracture was discovered. Certainly, by the time he had finished with them, Essex were themselves in need of restoration, especially as the script demanded that the later Surrey batsmen should be obdurate to the last.

Brown made his entrance with Surrey on 36 for four wickets, 301 behind, or perhaps more to the point at that stage, needing 108 to save the follow-on. Ashley Cowan, aided by some good catching behind the wicket, was playing his part for Essex, being in the midst of a spell which brought him three wickets for

eight runs in 20 balls. Bicknell, Kennis and Shahid had all retired to the wings.

Cowan's fourth fatal thrust accounted for Hollis with the score on 82, but Brown found a willing straight man in Lewis, who delivered some forceful lines of his own, and a gradual transformation took place. These two added 85 in 23 overs. Brown, by now in full command, went on to his century from 135 balls, which included two vintage sixes and 13 fours.

When he finally chopped a short ball from Cowan on to his stumps, Surrey were only 93 runs adrift. Then the bit players came into their own. Jamie Knott has yet to attain his father's range, but he has

inherited all the family determination to get his point across. After he had taken 28 minutes to register, he and Benjamin kept Essex waiting while the last wicket added 32. By then, Mark Ilott had retired from the stage with a twinge in his thigh and the final curtain was somewhat delayed.

Which is more than can be said for events when Essex once more took the part of batsmen. Gooch and Robinson proceeded without undue incident but then five lights on the scoreboard shone brightly, the players could hardly see their noses in front of them and the audience went home early, though without in the slightest feeling short-changed.

VICTORIA MATHERS



Wright waits as Silverwood, the Yorkshire fast bowler, strains to gain a breakthrough at Headingley yesterday

Hobbling Lynch adds to damage

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 303 runs ahead of Yorkshire

THE first-day demons in the Headingley wicket disappeared, perhaps in deference to a visitation by Harry Brind, the English Cricket Board pitch inspector. Well used to motorway dashes, only for surfaces to simmer down the morning after the day before, Brind deemed no further action would be necessary after the 16-wicket tumble on Wednesday.

All was still not sweetness and light. David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, at first slip, claimed a low catch edged by Mark Alleyne, his opposite number, when Alleyne was on 12. The Gloucestershire captain, who advanced to an unbeaten 49, stood his ground and after consultation between the umpires was ruled not out.

A mellowing surface simply enhanced Gloucestershire's command. Their irresistible victory march is fortified by Michael Vaughan, the Yorkshire opener with a cracked wrist, being unable to bat except in an emergency.

Yorkshire have been in that state for most of the two days, failing to cope with Martyn Ball, the off spinner, who had returned from a quick trip home after the birth of a son.

but scored his second half-century of the match.

Gloucestershire's strong position had been made possible by Michael Smith, whose six for 58 followed his match figures of ten for 106 against Hampshire last month, and by the batting of Tony Wright and Lynch. Wright made 79 before Byas took a sharp catch at first slip.

Smith returned three for 27 in his morning spell, dismissing Gavin Hamilton with a ball hustling through fieldishly, to illustrate that the pitch had not altogether lost its split personality of highs and lows. Richard Blakely was the other key individual, scoring 51 not out from 118 balls as those around him perished.

The uneven bounce meant that the sweep became a dangerous stroke but Lynch dived with danger and prospere. His share of a half-century partnership with Alleyne — 41 — summed up his panache.

The champagne was probably flowing already for Gloucestershire, in second place before this round of matches, as they edged back towards the top spot, occupied by Glamorgan, who are without a championship match.

The initial celebrations were for Martyn Ball, the off spinner, who had returned from a quick trip home after the birth of a son.

Noon and Johnson enliven drab day

By JAMES ALLEN

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 24 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

AFTER another attritional day, little has been done to improve the team. That Nottinghamshire have a modest lead is almost entirely thanks to Noon, whose grimy innings of 93 held the side together when it seemed to be slowly disintegrating. For Nottinghamshire, the plot is recurring painfully: like Bowen, who troubled them with the ball, Noon used to play his trade here.

This was his highest first-class score and he deserved a century, not least for enlivening a drab encounter. He hit 13 fours and hoisted Taylor over long-on for six, driving the ball almost as well as Johnson, who made the other meaningful contribution. Though he came in with Nottinghamshire at 91 for six, Noon showed that there was nothing to fear in the pitch and that aggression had a place amid defiance.

For about an hour before lunch, Johnson had done likewise, making a nonsense of the nudges and flicks that had been the common currency of the game. He simply stood there and whacked the ball. It was like a cloudburst in a drought. His first six scoring minutes from the close.

shots were boundaries, glorious in their lack of inhibition. Mohammad Akram suffered more than most and struggled to find his rhythm throughout the day. He has some work to do to prove his worth to his new county.

Until Noon got stuck in, no one had dared to follow Johnson's lead and seize the moment when Nottinghamshire had the upper hand. To some extent, the lack of ambition was understandable. Without the injured Robinson and Pollard, they are a fresh-faced team, playing for their places.

Askle, who has scored Test centuries against West Indies and England, is an exception. But his first innings for Nottinghamshire lasted only five balls, Bailey picking up a good low catch at third slip.

Curran can take credit for making life difficult for the batsmen: he had Weston leg-before, offering no shot and bowled Afzaal and Downman through the gate, swinging the ball back into the left-handers.

Johnson had perished making room to cut Emburey in the over before lunch and he was furious with himself. It was the cue for the match to return to its somnolent state, eyelids growing heavy as Emburey beguiled. Fortunately, Noon made everyone sit up and take notice before Taylor found his outside edge ten minutes from the close.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Hampshire

CHESTERFIELD (second day of four): Hampshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 35 runs behind Derbyshire

Derbyshire: First Innings

K J Bennett c Ames b Brown

A J Rollins b Renshaw

C J Adams c Hoaden b Renshaw

D J Gossler c Hoaden b Renshaw

V F Smart c Hoaden b Renshaw

M J Rafferty c Hoaden b Renshaw

P A DeFreitas c Ames b Brown

P A Alcock c Ames b Brown

J D Hoaden c Ames b Brown

Extras (1b, 1w, 1nb, 16)

Score (4) 120 overs 42-7

Fall of WICKETS 1-4, 2-130, 3-145, 4-155, 5-165, 6-175, 7-185, 8-195, 9-215, 10-225, 11-235, 12-245, 13-255, 14-265, 15-275, 16-285, 17-295, 18-305, 19-315, 20-325, 21-335, 22-345, 23-355, 24-365, 25-375, 26-385, 27-395, 28-405, 29-415, 30-425, 31-435, 32-445, 33-455, 34-465, 35-475, 36-485, 37-495, 38-505, 39-515, 40-525, 41-535, 42-545, 43-555, 44-565, 45-575, 46-585, 47-595, 48-605, 49-615, 50-625, 51-635, 52-645, 53-655, 54-665, 55-675, 56-685, 57-695, 58-705, 59-715, 60-725, 61-735, 62-745, 63-755, 64-765, 65-775, 66-785, 67-795, 68-805, 69-815, 70-825, 71-835, 72-845, 73-855, 74-865, 75-875, 76-885, 77-895, 78-905, 79-915, 80-925, 81-935, 82-945, 83-955, 84-965, 85-975, 86-985, 87-995, 88-1005, 89-1015, 90-1025, 91-1035, 92-1045, 93-1055, 94-1065, 95-1075, 96-1085, 97-1095, 98-1105, 99-1115, 100-1125, 101-1135, 102-1145, 103-1155, 104-1165, 105-1175, 106-1185, 107-1195, 108-1205, 109-1215, 110-1225, 111-1235, 112-1245, 113-1255, 114-1265, 115-1275, 116-1285, 117-1295, 118-1305, 119-1315, 120-1325, 121-1335, 122-1345, 123-1355, 124-1365, 125-1375, 126-1385, 127-1395, 128-1405, 129-1415, 130-1425, 131-1435, 132-1445, 133-1455, 134-1465, 135-1475, 136-1485, 137-1495, 138-1505, 139-1515, 140-1525, 141-1535, 142-1545, 143-1555, 144-1565, 145-1575, 146-1585, 147-1595, 148-1605, 149-1615, 150-1625, 151-1635, 152-1645, 153-1655, 154-1665, 155-1675, 156-1685, 157-1695, 158-1705, 159-1715, 160-1725, 161-1735, 162-1745, 163-1755, 164-1765, 165-1775, 166-1785, 167-1795, 168-1805, 169-1815, 170-1825, 171-1835, 172-1845, 173-1855, 174-1865, 175-1875, 176-1885, 177-1895, 178-1905, 179-1915, 180-1925, 181-1935, 182-1945, 183-1955, 184-1965, 185-1975, 186-1985, 187-1995, 188-2005, 189-2015, 190-2025, 191-2035, 192-2045, 193-2055, 194-2065, 195-2075, 196-2085, 197-2095, 198-2105, 199-2115, 200-2125, 201-2135, 202-2145, 203-2155, 204-2165, 205-2175, 206-2185, 207-2195, 208-2205, 209-2215, 210-2225, 211-2235, 212-2245, 213-2255, 214-2265, 215-2275, 216-2285, 217-2295, 218-2305, 219-2315, 220-2325, 221-2335, 222-2345, 223-2355, 224-2365, 225-2375, 226-2385, 227-2395, 228-2405, 229-2415, 230-2425, 231-2435, 232-2445, 233-2455, 234-2465, 235-2475, 236-2485, 237-2495, 238-2505, 239-2515, 240-2525, 241-2535, 242-2545, 243-2555, 244-2565, 245-2575, 246-2585, 247-2595, 248-2605, 249-2615, 250-2625, 251-2635, 252-2645, 253-2655, 254-2665, 255-2675, 256-2685, 257-2695, 258-2705, 259-2715, 260-2725, 261-2735, 262-2745, 263-2755, 264-2765, 265-2775, 266-2785, 267-2795, 268-2805, 269-2815, 270-2825, 271-2835, 272-2845, 273-2855, 274-2865, 275-2875, 276-2885, 277-2895, 278-2905, 279-2915, 280-2925, 281-2935, 282-2945, 283-2955, 284-2965, 285-2975, 286-2985, 287-2995, 288-3005, 289-3015, 290-3025, 291-3035, 292-3045, 293-3055, 294-3065, 295-3075, 296-3085, 297-3095, 298-3105, 299-3115, 30

Simmering bowler takes out his frustration on Australia

Caddick soon comes to the boil

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Edgbaston

GOODNESS gracious, what a day! As English bowlers blew away Australian batsmen in the morning, an assembly of pre-teens in the Rea Bank Stand squeaked its treble chorus. Later, when the gong had done its work and Hussain and Thorpe were associating with wonderful freedom, there was more adult encouragement from the other side. By the end of a long day, Edgbaston was awash with communal superfection.

It was one of those "I-was-there" occasions and made for a truly extraordinary start to the summer's Test cricket. The way that the crowd lapped it up might finally have persuaded the England players that they are beginning to win back the trust of the cricket-watching public, although it is not always easy to judge the terms of that constituency.

On Wednesday night, for instance, Radio 5 Live, which often gives the impression of being run by a common-room of excitable sixth-formers, neglected to mention the start of the Ashes series on its key evening sports round-up. Obviously, a contest that goes back 120 years is not important enough for the young thrusters of Langham Place. A few more days like this, though, and even they will be talking about English cricket



Fingers crossed: Mark Waugh walks out to bat as Taylor makes his exit yesterday

the way people used to do when Botham wore a crown. There will never be a better time for an ambitious England player to establish a place in the public imagination or, in Darren Gough's case, to re-establish a place.

Gough bowled terrifically well in the morning to rip out the guts of the batting. Devon

Malcolm bowled tolerably well, but he did get the wicket of Mark Taylor to keep the Australia captain imprisoned in a vortex from which there seems to be no escape. Malcolm will not last the series, in all probability. Andrew Caddick probably will.

Caddick was pleased to be left out of the Texaco Trophy internationals and took out his

frustration on Somerset's behalf. He is an attacking bowler who is starting to bowl the fuller length he needs and there was never much doubt that he would be invited to find it at Edgbaston.

He's a funny old stick. A mate, asked to describe him, would say only: "He's a bit . . . odd." It cannot help him that, being born and

outplayed is a strong word, but for this once it is a fair one to use. It means that the stage should be set for a close-fought series. Australia had an off day; for the moment they are doubtless themselves: they have too many very good cricketers who are not playing for them and the mood is with England. But they are the world's greatest fighters, and this was the first day of a six-match series. They may have been taking too much for granted, but they will know better now.

Australians with a long enough memory will be recalling with a good deal more pleasure the first morning of the fifth Test match at the Oval in 1948. That was much the nearest parallel in anything like "modern times" to the cricket yesterday morning. England were dismissed for 52, and a painfully protracted business it was: it took 42 overs to happen.

Ray Lindwall took 6 for 20. Keith Miller two for five and Bill Johnson two for 20, and, like England now, Australia caught everything that left the ground. Of England's 52, Len Hutton scored 30 and Norman Yardley, the captain, seven; the other nine, who included Bill Edrich and Dennis Compton, managed nine between them. Hutton was first in and last out, playing a legitimate leg glance off Lindwall only to see Don Tallon dive far to his left to

catch it. Hutton's opening partner was John Dewes, who recalled yesterday how good length balls from Miller kept hitting him in the ribs.

Although, in his last Test

innings, Don Bradman was to fall second ball to Eric Hollies' googly, Australia went on to win that match by an innings. If England should come somewhere near to doing the same now, they will have Hussain and Thorpe to thank as much as their bowlers.

Coming together at 50-3, on

a pitch that was losing some of its earlier freshness, but was still not quite to be trusted, these two batted most splendidly. May and Compton, Edrich and Cowdrey, Barrington and Gooch could have played no better. Their driving on the half-volley showed the confidence that is already running through the England side as a result of their convincing victories in the Texaco Trophy and their bowling yesterday.

Because they were going to bat if they won the toss, England were lucky to lose it. It was as though the Gods were with them. They might have fared better than Australia had they batted first, but they were conditions in which the quicker bowlers wanted

only to have a ball in their hands. To some extent Australia's problems were caused by swing, induced by the humidity; and they had some cause for thinking it was not a good Test pitch. By the close of play, though, they were in no position to say so.

Australia were outplayed in a way that would have been unthinkable a month ago.

John Woodcock fondly remembers a Test match morning of comparable English euphoria — in Melbourne 42 years ago

THE euphoria at

Edgbaston yesterday, first when Australia were being reduced to 54 for eight and later when Hussain and Thorpe were bating quite magnificently after tea, was something that Englishmen experience only when our old green-capped rivals are on the receiving end. And I mean that only as a compliment to them.

I have spent no happier, more heartening morning at a cricket match since Australia were losing their last eight

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

John Woodcock's

100 GREATEST CRICKETERS OF ALL TIME

John Woodcock, cricket correspondent of The Times from 1954 to 1987 and a former editor of Wisden, selects the best players in the history of the game

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

BUM BARREL

(c) The local name for the long-tailed tit, which can still be seen on bird tables in Notting Hill Gate. *Aegithalos caudatus*, but also called Bush Oven, Feather Puff, and Hock-Muck (for its nest). John Clare: "And coy buns barrels, twenty in a drove, / Fit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain."

LAUS TIBI

(a) A name for the White Narcissus, *Narcissus poeticus*. The Latin for "Good on you", "Praise to thee", "Laus Tibi or White Daffodil in Greek is called *Narcissos*".

MACHICOLATION

(c) An opening between the corbels which support a projecting parapet, or in the vault of a portal, through which combustibles, molten lead, stones, etc., were dropped on the heads of assailants. Also: a projecting structure containing a range of such openings.

MILLEFIORE

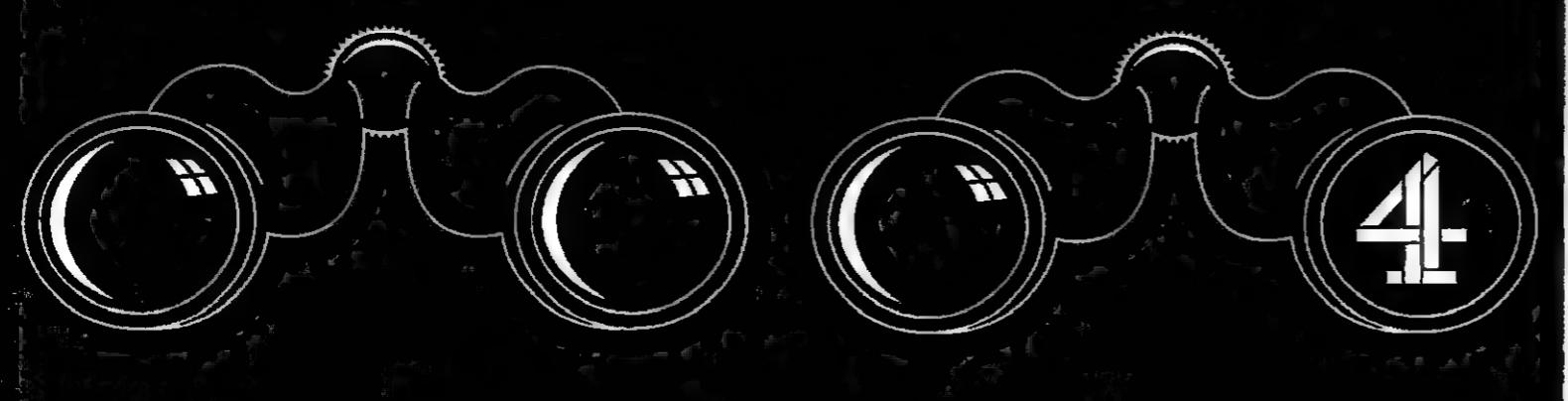
(c) A kind of ornamental glass made by fusing glass rods of different sizes and colours, and cutting the mass into sections which exhibit ornamental figures of various patterns, and are usually embedded in colourless transparent glass to make paperweights. From the Italian for "a thousand flowers".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rxe7! Rxe7 2. Rxd5+ Kc7 3. Rxd8 winning easily

The Derby: Tomorrow 3.45

The world's greatest race



TELEVISION CHOICE

Digging for poetic gold

Scene: Poetry Backpack

BBC2, midday

A fellow poet, John Hegley conducts an accessible introduction to the work of the Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney. The programme is ostensibly directed at schoolchildren, though adults are welcome to tune in as well. If they do, more than a few bookshops could find their shelves being scoured for Heaney's verse. Hegley's enthusiasm for his subject here deserves a hearty鼓掌. His approach is to suggest that poetry is a form of digging, an appropriate metaphor as Heaney grew up on a farm. The poems discussed by Hegley, with key lines helpfully displayed on the screen, are mainly about childhood in Northern Ireland and are a distillation of the poet's own experiences. Catherine Bryson and Tom Paulin, also poets as well as university lecturers in literature, add their admiring and unpretentious gloss.

The Man Who Made Husband Jealous

ITV, 9.00pm

Silly Cooper's story of adultery and seduction among the super-rich comes to the screen promising more than it delivers. Great drama it is not and even as a sexual romp it does not possess the necessary style and humour. But on its own preposterous terms there is much to enjoy. For a start the characters have such strange names, devised by the hero called Lysander Hawkey. Played by Stephen Billington, he is a young man of impossibly good looks whose job is to mend marriages. The idea is that rich and neglected wives employ him for a generous fee as a means of luring their philandering husbands back to the fold. So, after every house has jumped into bed with everybody else, conventional morality is finally restored. As one of the newly reconciled husbands tells his spouse: "All I ever wanted was the best for you, for me and for the kids." Bet you never thought you would hear that line again.

Drovers' Gold

ITV, 9.30pm

"There is a darkness about the man". No, this is not Ann Widdecombe laying into Michael Howard, but a sombre verdict on Armstrong, the cattle drive's bearded blacksmith, after he tries to start the characters have such strange names, devised by the hero called Lysander Hawkey. Played by Stephen Billington, he is a young man of impossibly good looks whose job is to mend marriages. The idea is that rich and neglected wives employ him for a generous fee as a means of luring their philandering husbands back to the fold. So, after every house has jumped into bed with everybody else, conventional morality is finally restored. As one of the newly reconciled husbands tells his spouse: "All I ever wanted was the best for you, for me and for the kids." Bet you never thought you would hear that line again.

Harry Hill

Channel 4, 10.30pm

Does Harry Hill have those huge shirt collars specially made or can anyone buy them? Has he got a crush on Zeinab Badawi and if not why does he mention her so often on his shows? If this is beginning to sound like a Hill script, his quickfire nonsensical patter can be catching. It is difficult to be wholly original in the comedy business and Hill owes more than a passing debt to the Goons. But the Goons were a long time ago and Hill has the tradition almost to himself. The level of inspiration varies and half an hour of sustained brilliance is too much to expect, particularly as Hill writes and performs all his material. But he is one of the best of the current crop of younger comedians and almost alone among them in that his humour is virtually a smut-free zone.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Born Free

Radio 2, 9.15pm

Joy Adamson was murdered by tribesmen in Kenya 17 years ago, an event made all the more shocking by the fact that Adamson and her husband had seemed to, to be part of the fabric of Africa. But the defence of animals makes enemies everywhere. *Born Free*, which begins an eight-part reading by Virginia McKenna today, was published in 1960, became a huge best-seller and was made into a successful film, complete with a tacky theme song sung by Matt Monro. The glamorisation of Joy Adamson tended to make her seem a naive romantic, yet the book shows that she had the toughness to make a real difference. *Born Free* is a terrific read which was well ahead of its time.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Noddy Holder, includes Alannah, Lovelace, 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.20 Radio 10.05 Business 6.30 Edith Piaf 10.30 BBC 10.45 Sport 11.30 Assignment 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Visions of Reality 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsbeat 3.05 Outback 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Footfall 4.15 Twists of Nature 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain 6.15 World Today 6.30 Europe 6.30 Business 6.45 Britain 6.45 World Today 6.50 Europe 6.50 Business 6.55 Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 10.05 Business 7.15 Newsbeat 7.30 Radio 10.05 Business 7.45 Radio 10.30 People and Politics 10.45 Sport 10.55 Newsbeat 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outback 1.30 Multitrack 1.30 from the Weeklies 12.30pm Outback 2.30 The Streets of London 3.30 People and Politics 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Weekend 4.45 Off the Shelf 5.00 Outback 5.45 Music Brief

The Truth is Our Currency

Radio 4, 9.45am

This is the last part of a series that seems to have been around for months, for the very good reason that it has. The broadcasts had to be interrupted when Martin Bell, white knight in white suit, rode to the rescue of seedy politics and took Tatton from Neil Hamilton in the most spectacular result of a spectacular election. So now the last part of Bell's investigation of television news can at last be heard and it was worth waiting for. Bell particularly highlights the freedom British television correspondents enjoy — they are, more or less, their own editors — but this brings it a great responsibility, an obligation occasionally abandoned by the unscrupulous when the race is on to get the best "story".

Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newday 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Today 7.45 Pick of the World 8.15 Oh the Shetland 8.30 Music Review 8.45 Peacock for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Edith Piaf 10.30 BBC 10.45 Sport 11.30 Assignment 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Visions of Reality 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsbeat 3.05 Outback 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Footfall 4.15 Twists of Nature 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain 6.15 World Today 6.30 Europe 6.30 Business 6.45 Britain 6.45 World Today 6.50 Europe 6.50 Business 6.55 Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 10.05 Business 7.15 Newsbeat 7.30 Radio 10.05 Business 7.45 Radio 10.30 People and Politics 10.45 Sport 10.55 Newsbeat 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outback 1.30 Multitrack 1.30 from the Weeklies 12.30pm Outback 2.30 The Streets of London 3.30 People and Politics 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Weekend 4.45 Off the Shelf 5.00 Outback 5.45 Music Brief

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Grattis 7.00 Mike Read 8.00 Hall of Fame Hour 8.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Luncheon Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crichton 7.00 Classic Newsbeat 7.30 Sonata 8.00 Evening Concert, Brahms (Selection of Works Op 38); Kodaly (Dances of Galanta); Brahms (Violin Sonata in G major Op 78) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Luncheon Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ "n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Noddy Home 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) 8.00 Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark Forster 2.00pm Richard Porter

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes Bridge (String Quartet No 1 in E minor), Albeni (Concerto in G, Op 10 No 8), Borodin (Polovtsian Dances); Beethoven (Sonata in E flat, Op 71); Tumma (Sedel, Scene Andante); Rameau (in Couverture).

9.00am The Collector, with Peter Hobday, includes Mozart (Piano Sonata in C, K330), Handel (Incidental Music, Comus), Couperin (Pan and Syrinx), Tchaikovsky (Overture, Francesca da Rimini).

10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Bach (Jesu, Joy of Life; Pan and Syrinx), Lully (Transcendentie), Bach (Concerto in D major for Violin and Organ), BWV 1080, Bach (Greek Folk Songs); Poulenc (Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano); Leduc (Premiere Recitation, Op 6, mvt 7 and 8); Froberger (Lamentation on the Death of Ferdinand III); Thomas, Piffield (Rondo Lmico) Robert Stanhope (Concerto for Orchestra).

12.00 Composer of the Week, Dvorak (Allegro Appassionato).

1.00pm Newsbeat, includes Stories from the Concert Hall from the BBC Proms.

2.00pm Newsbeat, includes Stories from the Concert Hall from the BBC Proms.

3.00pm Music, includes Bach (Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano); Poulenc (Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano); Leduc (Premiere Recitation, Op 6, mvt 7 and 8); Froberger (Lamentation on the Death of Ferdinand III); Thomas, Piffield (Rondo Lmico) Robert Stanhope (Concerto for Orchestra).

4.00pm Music Machine, Steve Tarcia demonstrates music on his internet website. Plus a look at whether 3-D radio is possible.

RADIO 4

5.30am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today includes Thought for the Day 6.40 Yesterday 6.45 Domesday Disease, Sun Lawday talks to the pianist Joanna MacGregor (r)

9.45 The Truth is Our Currency, See Choice (4/4)

10.00 News: A Dance Called America (FM).

If there's a next time, drop the dead audience

Several times over the past few weeks I have been tempted to return to the subject of *Keeping Mum* (BBC1). But each time I have reread my original review and thought: "Have I got anything new to say?" And for the most part, I hadn't. Seriously not funny it began and seriously not funny it remained.

Now it has finished, Medical columnist can stop writing about whether Peggy (Stephanie Cole) was suffering from the simple confusion of old age or the middle stages of Alzheimer's and television reviewers can stop writing paragraphs that begin "Stephanie Cole was brilliant, but..."

Stephanie Cole was brilliant but... Martin Ball, who played Andrew, the stay-at-home son, was even better. Whether this is any compensation for an actor who has had the misfortune to be in both *Chalk* and *Keeping Mum*, I don't know — especially as the quality of

the performance is one of the main reasons the series isn't funny.

Andrew's life has been ruined by his mother: his marriage is over, his social life non-existent. Last night's episode ended with his former wife quietly explaining that even if his mother was in a home (and she wasn't for long) she wouldn't be coming back. "I left you because we're different." Even the studio audience, which quickly established itself as one of the most irritating in sitcom history, had the grace not to laugh.

Cole's meticulous performance as Peggy adds to the confusion. As Andrew puts it: "I don't know whether you are vague or whether you are pretending to be vague." Nor do we, which is why we don't know whether to laugh or not. On the one hand, Peggy is only funny when she's barty, a fact which in this medically enlightened age makes us feel awkward when

we're invited to laugh at it. On the other, when she is lucid, she reveals herself as a selfish, manipulative old bat who ought to be packed off into long-term care immediately. There, I think that should guarantee a second series.

If there were to be a second series, the BBC might like to follow the example of *ITV* which currently has two comedies, *My Wonderful Life* and *See You Friday*, running without studio laughter at all. Once you get used to it, it's wonderfully refreshing, both for the actors, who no longer have to invent extra bits of acting to do while the titters subside, and for us. A smile is no longer an admission of failure.

The cast of *My Wonderful Life* has relished this new freedom and come up with a comedy that got better and better as it went along. Emma Wray has been a treat as Donna, the lippy

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

nurse and single mother of two, but has received outstanding support from everyone around. Tony Robinson judged to perfection Alan, who, as her immensely irritating next-door neighbour, was the only part that threatened to succumb to sitcom stereotype. Liz Berrington, as Marina, his increasingly rebellious wife, particularly after a delicious close encounter with Roger (Hamish

Clark), was wickedly enjoyable. Simon Nye, who created the series but rotated writing duties with Paul Dorman and Amanda Swift, returned for last night's episode, the final one in the series, which saw Donna tempted by a job offer in Portugal. This produced a mixed response among her two admirers. Dr Roger was prepared to give up everything to come with her, while Lawrie, the ambulance driver who never does anything without his blue light on, was more sanguine: "Relationships are like T-shirts: they come in all styles and you should try and change them regularly." It sounded like a line from Nye's best known creation, *Men Behaving Badly*, but we can forgive that.

Donna, for reasons that were hard to fathom, was reluctant to swap her life of hospital drudgery and relentless poverty for one of sunshine and yachts in Portugal: "Once you've seen one swarthy

fisherman, you've seen them all." Bridget (Claire Perkins), who as well as being her best friend is black, bristled: "That's a relief, for a moment I thought you were going to say something prejudiced." Lovely. Now, if somebody could do something about the appalling music in *See You Friday*...

On Channel 4, more serious matters were under discussion, as the excellent *Health Alert* continued its fine run with a report on premature menopause, while *Dispatches* took a new look at the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, outside the Libyan Embassy in London, 13 years ago. Both were long on personal anecdote but somewhat short of hard facts, the former because shamefully little work seems to have been done into the causes of early menopause, the latter because the reporter, Joe Layburn, is

not a man to let substantiated facts stand in the way of a good conspiracy theory.

He took off at speed, a tactic that makes for good television but always makes me worry about holes in the evidence. Two gunmen not one (where have we heard that before?), one using a sub-machine gun as previously reported, one a hand gun smuggled into the country by a member of the Berlin underworld. Layburn's contention was that the lethal shot came not from a Libyan diplomat, inside the embassy, but from a gunman next door, working for an anti-Gaddafi terrorist group already responsible for the deaths of several Libyan diplomats. He further contended that both British and American Intelligence knew that guns were likely to be used in St James's Square, but failed to inform the police. A good effort, but, thanks to too much time spent in Berlin, not an altogether convincing one.

6.00am Business Breakfast (97631)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (5525)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5564728)
9.20 Style Challenge (367945)
9.50 Klyro (T) (8770411)
10.25 Who'll Be the Pudding? Valentina Harris, Sophie Grigson and Jeanne Rankin prepare a family picnic (1494389)
10.45 News, Regional News (T) and weather (6830070)
10.50 Cricket: First Test: England v Australia Live coverage of the opening play on day two at Edgbaston. Introduced by Tony Lewis. Continues on BBC2 (93558877)
12.35pm Neighbours (4921508)
1.00-News (T) and weather (88612)
1.30 Regional News (T) (15085877)
1.40 Cricket: First Test: England v Australia Tony Lewis introduces live coverage from Edgbaston. Continues on BBC2 (3800457)
4.00 Dodger and Badger (T) (5174070) 4.18
Ace Ventura, Pet Detective (T) (T) (9241341) 4.35 Clarisse Explains It All (T) (6216186) 5.00 Newsround (T) (893609)
5.10 Blue Peter, Celebrating International Year of the Reef with reports from the Cayman Islands; Portsmouth's Seaside Centre and the Island of Zanzibar, off Africa's east coast (T) (7688902)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (298815)
6.00 News (T) and weather (341)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (T) (693)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog On the eve of the Derby, Johnathan Mailand reports from Epsom racetrack on the bookies who refuse to pay up on winning bets. Plus: the rescue team fly to Kenya to save holidaymakers staying in a squall hotel in Mombasa (T) (6728)
7.30 Top of the Pope presented by Jayne Middlemiss (T) (877)
8.00 X Cars The squad are on the trail of villains who can disguise a car's true identity in a matter of hours (T) (2148)
8.30 Aunnie's Sporting Bloomers A new series presented by Terry Wogan who is joined by golfing enthusiast Jimmy Tarbuck, while comic duo Parsons and Naylor take a sideways look at the world of sports broadcasting (4983)
9.00 News (T): Regional News (T) and weather (3235)
11.30 Drovers' Gold Set in mid-19th-century Wales A cattle dealer and a struggling farmer enter into a bitter feud. With David Calder and Geraldine James (2/3) (T) (189457)
10.25 The Accused (1988) Jodie Foster in the powerful role of a woman, gang-raped in a bar, who perseveres in seeking justice. Also starring Kelly McGillis. Directed by Jonathan Kaplan (T) (128728)
12.10pm Whatever Happened to Aunt Alice? (1969) with Geraldine Page, Rosemary Forsyth and Robert Fuller. A minister widow finds a measure way of acquiring wealth. She hires well-off housekeepers who then disappear under mysterious circumstances. Directed by Lee H Katzin (892397)
1.45-1.50 Weather (6834552)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. To order after the programme, dial your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ ("+"), PlusCode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am O: Bangkok: A City Speaks (T) (3552438) 6.25 Politics of Equal Opportunity (T) (9631457)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) and signing (1274963)
7.30 Teenage Turfles (T) (G199877) 7.55 50/50 (T) (6107896) 8.25 Adventures of the Garden Fairies (1758709)
8.35 The Record (2931254)
9.00 The French Experience (5631490) 9.15 The French Collection (167273) 9.45 Watch (4466506) 10.00 Telebilities (T) (49235) 10.30 Watch Out (4313525)
10.45 Pathways of Belief (4301760)
11.00 Look and Read Special (5549070)
11.20 Job Bank (2490419) 11.30 Geography Programme (5070)



Poet Seamus Heaney (12.00)

12.00 English File: Poetry Backpack Poems by Seamus Heaney (1689032)

12.35pm Cricket: First Test — England v Australia Live coverage continued from BBC1 (4929148)

1.00 Job Bank (10627419) 1.10 Job Bank (4587596) 1.20 Lifeschool (9013296) 1.45 Words and Pictures (1509524)

2.00 Garden Fairies (T) (2303898) 2.05 Tooth Fairies (T) (4248439)

2.10 Alias Smith and Jones (T) (3055902)

3.00 News (T) 3.05 Making Babies. Last in series (40714148) 3.55 News

4.00 Cricket: First Test — England v Australia Further coverage from Edgbaston (75288963)

4.25 Star Trek (T) (624443)

7.15 Great Railway Journeys: Nimbasse to the Mountains of the Moon: Explorer Benedict Allen searches for the source of the White Nile — by rail (T) (137780)

8.00 Visions of Snowdonia: The Good Shepherds The work of sheep farmer John Lewis, on Cadair Idris (T) (3490)

8.30 Gardeners' World Alan Titchmarsh creates a rustic effect with willow rods and hazel (T) (2525)

9.00 The Fast Show (T) (1877)

9.30 VIP (Very Important Person) (T) Dennis Penruis never finds another crop of personalities on the spot (40501)

10.00 Have I Got News for You? The last of the series featuring guest Germaine Greer and Lee Simpson (34902)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (51457)

11.15 Cricket: First Test — England v Australia Highights (768615)

11.55 This Life (T) (780815)

12.00-2.30 Rhapsody in August (1990) Akira Kurosawa's sentimental drama, with Richard Gere, Sachiko Murase and Hideaki Yoshida. A grandmother changes the lives of her family by recalling the death of her husband during the atom bomb attack on Nagasaki. Directed by Akira Kurosawa. In Japanese with English subtitles (778958)

1.45-1.50 Weather (6834552)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. To order after the programme, dial your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ ("+"), PlusCode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

(88977) 12.00 Derby (1988) (89047)
2.00-2.30 The Big Picture (89047)
4.00 My Girl (T) (8904) 5.00 Derby (1988) (42633) 5.20 UK Top 10 (8167)
5.30 The Sister-In-Law (T) (31341)
10.00 Species (1989) (569886) 1.30 The Adventures of Robin Hood (1994) (518177) 1.25 Only the Strong (1993) (52025) 3.15 The Wrong Woman (1989) (57465) 4.35 Galileo's Travels (T) (35149)

4.50 The Fast Show (T) (1877)

5.00 The VIP (Very Important Person) (T) Dennis Penruis never finds another crop of personalities on the spot (40501)

5.30 News I've Got News for You? The last of the series featuring guest Germaine Greer and Lee Simpson (34902)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (51457)

11.15 Cricket: First Test — England v Australia Highights (768615)

11.55 This Life (T) (780815)

12.00-2.30 Rhapsody in August (1990) Akira Kurosawa's sentimental drama, with Richard Gere, Sachiko Murase and Hideaki Yoshida. A grandmother changes the lives of her family by recalling the death of her husband during the atom bomb attack on Nagasaki. Directed by Akira Kurosawa. In Japanese with English subtitles (778958)

1.45-1.50 Weather (6834552)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. To order after the programme, dial your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ ("+"), PlusCode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

12.00pm Boxing (9210754) 2.00pm Gaels (9215419) 3.00pm NHL Ice Hockey (2642921) 5.00pm English Football (3625457) 5.30pm W1F (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Professionals (9210753) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (780830) 6.30pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 7.00pm The Corrie Touch (2137419) 8.00pm The Professionals (2146157) 8.30pm The Good Life (9210754) 2.00pm Surprise Special (70457) 3.00pm The Corrie Touch (798876) 4.00pm London's Last Stand (780830) 5.00pm The Professionals (9210753) 6.00pm Coronation St (78



RUGBY UNION 42

Lions demand action over injury that threatens Weir's career

SPORT

FRIDAY JUNE 6 1997

FOOTBALL 46

Laid-back celebration for England stars in Italian job



Thorpe and Hussain turn Test screw after rampant bowlers run through Australia

England walk in Ashes wonderland

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (first day of five; Australia won toss); England, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 82 runs ahead of Australia

IT WAS more than the most fevered imagination could have conceived: not yet lunchtime on the first day of an Ashes series, and Australia were 54 for eight. Even the swelling mood of patriotic optimism had prepared nobody for such sensation and a capacity crowd rubbed disbeliefing eyes and marvelled.

If it seemed too good — too mad — to last, then for a short while it was. Australia staged a recovery of sorts, their ninth wicket doubling the score, and then had England's top three out before tea. Union Jacks were lowered judiciously and a tense, reverential calm descended on supporters preparing for familiar disillusionment.

At this point, on a day of astounding events and cloying humidity, it must have occurred to Mark Taylor that things could, after all, get worse. At the pace that wickets were falling, it would have been no surprise to see him fall for second time before the close, his captaincy buried with undignified haste.

It needed two opponents to reprise him, though it is doubtful if he felt like thanking them for it. Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe, refusing to be intimidated by conditions or becalmed by circumstance, established a powerful, punishing stand, so far worth 150. It may decide the series, and it was bating of the highest class.

Michael Atherton has spoken frequently and passionately of the need to cure England's propensity for the false start, but he can have envisaged nothing like this. Despite their unimpressive form on tour and the ongoing troubles of their captain, Australia are the best Test team in the world. They are also in the

'I have spent no happier morning at a match since Australia lost their last eight wickets for 36 in 1955'
John Woodcock recalls another day of English euphoria, page 50

aid to some vibrant, aggressive and accurate bowling was swing, which modern Australian batsmen play poorly, but, even late in the day, the odd ball misbehaved.

It turned out to be a very good toss to lose. Taylor's decision to bat was justifiable, based on recent history at this ground: the excessive swing could not be predicted any more confidently than the assertiveness of the England bowling. All too often, England attacks have cantered half-heartedly into Test series. The tone yesterday was established, just as Atherton had hoped and forecast, by the first ball, a perfect outswinger from Darren Gough that beat Taylor's outside edge.

The lack of pace in the pitch

was evident when Devon Malcolm's first ball did not carry to the wicketkeeper. Throughout, he was the least impressive of the three bowlers that England needed, his rhythm and radar seldom in tune, but he took two influential wickets nonetheless.

Gough struck first, hitting Elliott off stump with late inswing. Taylor then leant into a half-volley from Malcolm and drove it for four, but it did not calm his nerves.

Stretching to the next, which he could easily have left, he edged it to Butcher at second slip.

An explosive roar, indicative of dawning belief, greeted the demise of Mark Waugh, bowled while his footwork dithered. Blewett was exposed by the ball leaving him late, turned square several times and even bowled by a no-ball before stabbing the inspired Gough to third slip.

Steve Waugh has responded to many such calamities, but this one was beyond him. The fifth wicket added 20 before Andy Caddick, who had settled instantly to the right line, bowled something close to the unplayable ball to have Waugh caught behind. The next was not quite so good, but good enough for Healy, and when Bevan, transfixed by a short one from Malcolm, produced tamely to gully, Australia's bating was gone.

It was Shane Warne who rescued them from humiliation. Atherton rightly recalled Gough against the tail, but his first two overs cost 25. Warne playing strokes born as much of fatalism as defiance. Lunch arrived, still with eight wickets down. Australia, however, did not last much longer. Caddick removed Kasprowicz through a slip catch and Warne thanks to a scuttling, stretching grab at third man by Malcolm.

Those scouring almanacs for comparable Australian totals did not have far to look — three Ashes Tests ago, at Sydney in January 1995, Gough bowled them out for 116. England, though, did not win that match and they were no certainties to win this one as Atherton was caught behind from a ball that lifted and left him, and Butcher was undone by one slanted across his body.

It became 50 for three when Stewart offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of



Caddick's joy is unconfined after taking the third of his five wickets on the opening day of the first Test match at Edgbaston

Indeed that no further wickets fell in the last 41 overs of a day on which 13 had fallen in 46, was due to two men, friends as well as team-mates, batting as well as they have done for their country.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

Pictures of joy, page 48

Middlesex prosper, page 48

Shining light, page 49

It became 50 for three when Stewart offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was an air of wondering how they were going to take a wicket. To English eyes more accustomed to the receiving end of such one-sidedness, it was a delectable sight.

There was only one escape, when Thorpe offered a sharp chance to Bevan at square leg, amid an exhibition of assured defence and such contemptuous dismissal of the loose ball that their runs were scored at four per over. Come the end of

the day, Australia were ragged. Gillespie had departed with a hamstring strain. Warne was mixing lavish turn with long hops and there was

Tory troops are in worse state than feared

Party membership has fallen by almost half since 1992, a Times survey discloses. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky plots the downward course of Conservative associations

THE decline of the Conservative Party at the grass roots has been faster than even the most pessimistic observers have realised. This emerges from a survey for *The Times* of membership in 340 local constituency associations, one of the most comprehensive ever collected.

Total membership has plummeted in less than three years, since the last survey for *The Times*. The party has lost slightly under half its members since 1992 and is now down to at most 350,000 and 400,000. For the first time (except possibly for the political truce during the Second World War), Labour has a larger membership.

Tory membership was five times greater than Labour's when Mrs Thatcher won in 1979, and just a quarter of what was shown in an official survey in the early 1970s. Today's total is little more than a tenth of the record level of three million of 1953. Moreover, Tory members are predominantly elderly loyalists. A survey by Sheffield University in 1992 revealed that two thirds were aged 56 and over.

In ten of the strongest local associations, there has been an average drop of 41 per cent since 1992. Even successful parties such as Beaconsfield have seen a drop from more than 4,000 to 2,800; Saffron Walden from 5,434 to about 2,500, and Ryedale from 3,605 to 1,250. Even greater falls have occurred in marginal seats lost by the Tories on May 1. Membership in Stevenage dropped from 904 in 1993 to 323 in 1996-97; Harlow from 840 to 292; Bury North from 726 to 206; and Amber Valley from 350 to 130.

There are a few crumbs of comfort. Subscriptions have risen sharply as computerisation and direct-mail appeals have replaced door-to-door methods of collections. This may account for part of the fall in recorded membership. Previous recruitment methods led to exaggerated figures as inactive members or those giving token subscriptions were on previous party rolls.

However, the latest local statistics are still seen within the party as unrealistically high. Several agents point to the "porkies" told by colleagues in their annual membership returns to the national party (which barely half of the English and Welsh associations send to Central Office). Totals are padded via the

recycling of out-of-date figures (some of the "latest" totals provided by two different officials were for 1992-93). Former members who have not renewed subscriptions are retained on the party roster. Spouses are often counted as members even when only one subscription has been paid. Estimates from ward branches are accepted without checking.

Hundreds of members of Conservative clubs are included as individual members when these clubs are primarily social (for supporters of all parties). Club subscriptions have kept membership totals in some Labour heartlands (such as Bradford or Merthyr Tydfil) at artificially high levels.

Associations that agree to provide figures tend to be better organised than those which do not. If the statistics collected for 340 associations are taken as accurate, membership nationally is now 400,000. This is probably an overestimate and 350,000 is probably more realistic.

There are huge geographical variations. At one extreme, there are the Tory bastions, albeit battered, Surrey Heath, Croydon, Beaconsfield and Kensington and Chelsea have local budgets of £15,000 to £20,000 each. There are only two dozen such parties, virtually all in London's stockbroker belt.

Only a handful of seats in the North — such as William Hague's Richmond — have solid support, although this is usually declining. In the

North, the East Midlands and in Scotland, the average membership in politically "strong" seats (those held by Tories in 1992 by a margin of more than 10 per cent) was 900. In the South and South West it was 1,470 in strong seats.

At the other extreme are virtually defunct associations, mostly in inner cities. Of those surveyed, a fifth had memberships of 100 or less. According to constituency figures — probably exaggerated — average membership in seats held by Labour in the last parliament by a margin of at least 10 per cent was only 15.

The greatest damage has been in marginal seats held by the Tories in 1992. But the smaller base of voluntary supporters in key marginals has been compounded by the erosion of the party's local government base.

Nonetheless, some parties became adept at tapping medium-sized donations from local business. But a preliminary analysis of 150 constituency budgets suggests a drop in average incomes of about a quarter. It is often hard to persuade rich associations to help marginals.

Several associations, mostly in the South, have large investments, usually in property. Aylesbury, whose portfolio probably exceeds £2 million, is the richest. Another asset-rich association is Hampstead and Highgate, a Labour seat since 1992. Such wealth can lessen the need and urge to recruit members.

Moreover, many Tory MPs



Stella Jinks outside the party's office in Little Lever. "Maybe, like John Major, I will take up my bat and go and watch the cricket."

Party's last outpost concentrates on keeping the enemy occupied

By RUSSELL JENKINS

BOLTON SOUTH EAST is Conservative Central Office's most sickly outpost with membership of the local association in almost terminal decline; its few remaining stalwarts jaded, dispirited and despairing of any prospect of political rejuvenation.

Conservatives holed up in Little Lever, an oasis of threadbare gentility in the middle of urban sprawl south of Bolton washed red by Labour in the election, are a beleaguered and dwindling band. They are not so much diehard as dying out.

Stella Jinks, election agent, office clerk, fund raiser and general dog's body, runs the association from a cramped office above Little Lever Conservative Club, in the shadow of the local Kwik Save supermarket. She remains stoically realistic but is preparing to step down from her unsalaried and unsung position.

So poverty-stricken that she has never been able to afford to attend a Conservative Party conference, she complains that the association is a "poor relation" to the rich counterparts in the South East. Her

THE POOR RELATION

office has never had a fax machine, let alone e-mail. It shares a telephone and, during the campaign, the tiny desk groaned under the weight of costly but unsolicited literature sent from Smith Square that could not be pushed through letter boxes simply because there were no volunteers to do so.

Bolton South East is typical of dozens of small Conservative Associations in Labour territory where, even in the good times, there is no prospect of returning a Conservative member. Now, in the bad times, it has lost its seats on Bolton council and official membership has dwindled to six or seven.

One of those is Mrs Jinks's husband who explained cheerfully on the doorstep of his terrace cottage that he does not get involved. The age profile is old and getting older. Mrs Jinks jokes that she is introduced as one of the young ones — she will be 50 at the turn of the century.

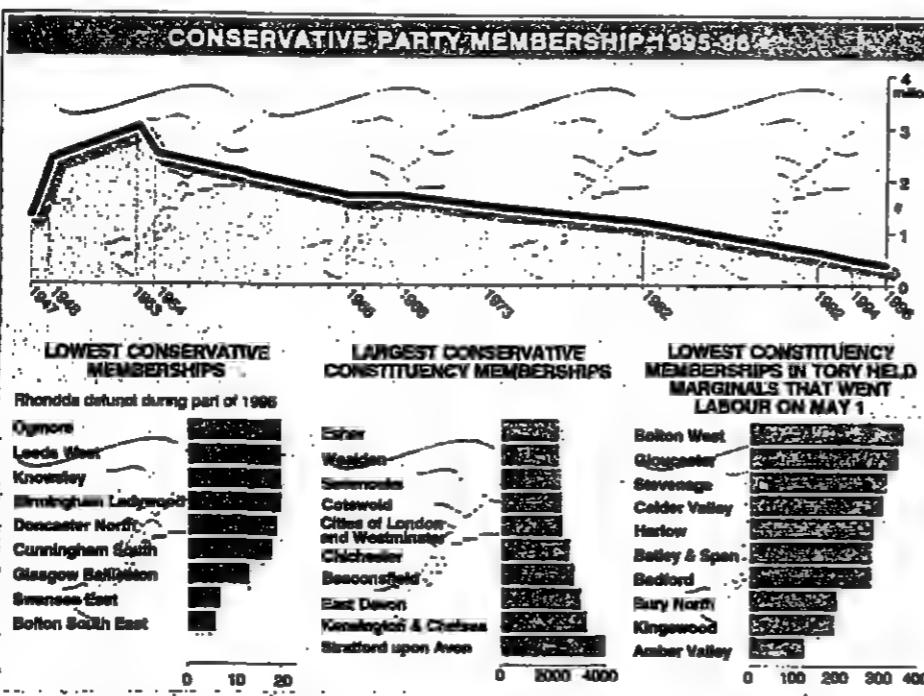
For some years Christine Churchman and Dorothy Dzubas represented the

Conservative cause for Little Lever on the Labour-run Bolton council. Peter and Christine Churchman are still active in the party. For some time their grandest political aim has merely been to keep the "enemy", local Labour Party, occupied so that they cannot concentrate their troops on surrounding marginals.

Mrs Jinks sometimes wonders what Lady Thatcher would make of the Conservative Clubs in her constituency, where women are not allowed to stand at the bar or play snooker. Hit them with her handbag, she thinks. She would be even more horrified at the way Mrs Jinks gets by on a shared telephone, ancient PC and has to count the pennies for every postage stamp.

"At the moment I am waiting for somebody to take the baton from me," she says. "But it is a lot like the British Olympic relay team. Everybody is going around asking do you know anybody to replace her? I think they are hoping I'll change my mind."

"It may be a case of this lady is not for turning and, like John Major, I will take up my bat and go and watch the cricket."



Strong organisation bolstered by agent's professionalism

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DEVON EAST is one of the Tories' few remaining bastions in the South West. Sir Peter Emery retained the seat by a majority of 7,489 on May 1. The local party boasts a membership estimated in our survey to be just over 3,000, but reckoned locally to be almost 3,500, in the top ten for the country.

Yet the Tories' success is not based simply on the large number of people, largely Tory-supporting, who have retired here and make up 45 per cent of the population. It is as much due to the industry and professionalism of one man.

At 61, James Cobley is the doyen of Tory agents. Apart from a brief stint with the RAF, he has worked for the party since leaving school at 16, qualifying as an agent in 1959. He moved to Honiton, as the seat was then known, to get Sir Peter safely installed at a 1967 by-election.

Every morning at 7.30am, Mr Cobley arrives at the party's headquarters. Sitting at his Dell computer, he demonstrates extraordinary computer literacy. At his fingertips he has a database of every voter, party member and activist in the constituency. Under the Data Protection Act, the computer can tell him how people said they voted in elections. Each

SUCCESS STORY

Tory supporter is coded to say whether they are prepared to put a poster in their window, deliver leaflets, canvass on the doorstep or by telephone, help with lifts to polling stations, or simply help with sending out envelopes.

With desk-top publishing software, he can also print invitations, flyers and leaflets with minimal cost. For larger posters, he has his own professional offset printing machine upstairs.

Voters are targeted constantly, especially those whom he calls opinion-formers, such as vets, doctors, parish council chairmen and members of the Women's Institute. With the help of two part-time secretaries, letters and phone call inquiries are followed up by return.

Mr Cobley heads out to a party event almost every night of the week, such as bingo nights, barbecues and advice bureaux. He also attends party branch meetings. The key, Mr Cobley says, is to keep party workers and supporters involved.



James Cobley, agent in Devon East, which has 3,000 members

Party machine needs overhauling

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

In the inner cities, the Tory party has virtually ceased to exist. In the Welsh valleys, Glasgow and the big cities of the Midlands and the North, there are a mere handful of members, and most are elderly. As serious is that membership is now down to the low hundreds in marginals which the Tories held up to five weeks ago.

All parties tend to lose membership when they are in office — and this is usually linked to a sharp decline in the number of local councillors. But the current Tory position is much worse than the party has ever experienced before.

The conventional wisdom

is that the party needs to boost membership to regain ground not just in key marginals but also in what have become Labour strongholds. This is linked to the party's generational problem with an ageing membership and the decimation of its youth movement.

PETER RIDDELL

A business fax so intelligent it even makes the odd personal call.



You won't mind when the UF-550 makes the occasional call without asking first. After all, it is only to contact a dealer for more toner. And, thanks to a toner capacity that's up to four times larger than most, it really is a very occasional call. It's got plenty of other endearing features, too. You can connect it to a network so you can fax and print from your PC — and even scan in data.

Its memory is upgradable to 347 pages and, because the UF-550 is a Panasonic, you can be sure of quality laser printing and excellent reliability.

So get smart. Find out more about the most intelligent network fax solution for your office, by making a free call, personally, on 0500 40 40 41.

Panasonic
Facsimile

'Heart of Berlin' had Hitler and Garbo among its guests

Hotel Adlon, haunt of kaiser and tsar, comes back to life

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Hotel Adlon, haunt of emperors and kings, film stars and Nazi leaders, has opened its doors again in Berlin with a promise to be the "heart of the city at the heart of Europe".

The hotel, founded in 1907 by Lorenz Adlon, was the favourite resting place of Kaiser Wilhelm II, who persuaded the British Government to surrender part of the embassy garden next door so that guests would have more space. The Adlon's cafe and ballroom became a second home for the British diplomats in the old — soon to be new — embassy on Unter den Linden and a few Anglo-German love affairs were played out there. It was the Kaiser who took King Edward VII into the hotel kitchen to learn Escoffier's secret for perfect bouillabaisse (some steamed garlic and a teaspoon of absinthe).

Today the rebuilt hotel is hoping to catch some of the same flavour: it looks out over the Reichstag and the old-new centre of reunited Berlin. Hilda Adlon, the hotel's last manager, promised that she would rebuild the place, but only when there was no more West Sector or East Sector.

 Kaiser Wilhelm II, who persuaded London to give up some of its embassy garden for the Hotel Adlon

or. In the event, it has been rebuilt by the Kempinski hotel chain which opened the doors this week.

The emphasis has been on

film stars, writers and statesmen, not on the darker side.

on the darker side. Yet like most of the older buildings in central Berlin, the hotel has sinister aspects to its past. Hitler liked the place, though not with the same enthusiasm as the Kaiser, and had quiet meetings in its rooms, a short stroll from his chancellery.

Throughout Germany there are grand hotels where Hitler

stayed — in Bonn it is the Hotel Dreesen — and managers, while pretending there is nothing special about the rooms, flutter nervously when curious guests make inquiries: there are no plaques announcing "Hitler slept here". His other favourites were the hotels Prinz Albert and Deutscher Hof in Berlin and the Hotel Wapner in Munich.

Senior SS officers and especially the Gestapo, which had its headquarters conveniently close, used the Adlon restaurant as a kind of canteen and the bedrooms as a playground for their mistresses. Joseph Goebbels, the Propaganda Minister, conducted one of his many complicated affairs — with a cabaret singer and a dancer — in the Adlon, hobbling from room to room as if in a Brian Rix farce.

Mussolini stopped by for a hot bath after finding the water in the palace where he had been lodged ran only cold.

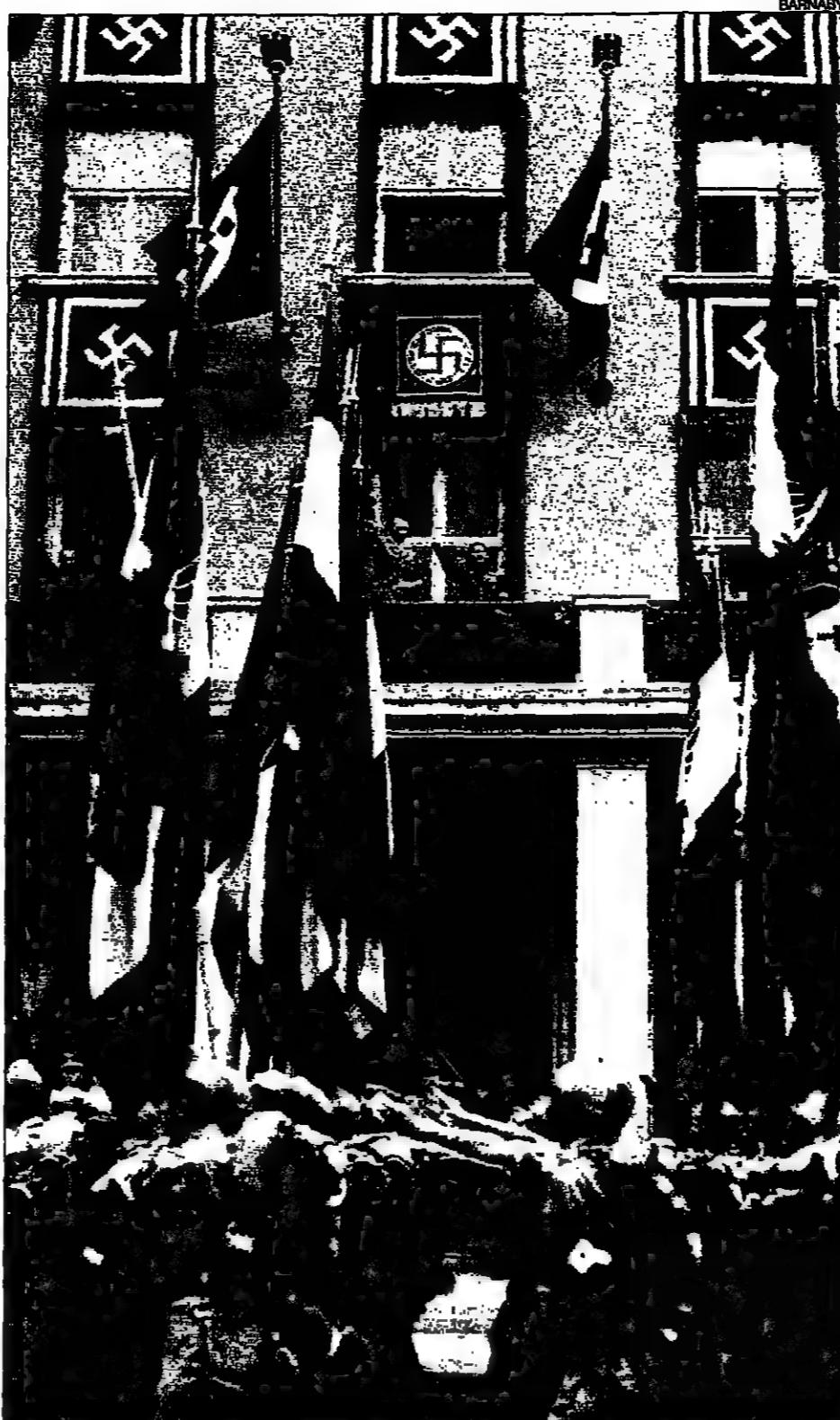
The Adlon stayed open

throughout the war, almost unscathed by the bombing. Swastikas garlanded the ballrooms. The rooms were also taken by neutral diplomats and American foreign correspondents, such as William Shirer. When allied bombers approached Berlin, hotel flunkies would sound a huge gong rather than resorting to a vulgar siren.

As the Russians moved towards the centre of the city, the hotel housed some army commanders and a makeshift hospital and mortuary. When the Soviet Army burst through its portals, they headed for the wine cellar of 250,000 bottles. The waiters were still wearing frock coats. One story is that the hotel burnt down shortly afterwards because the straw wrappings in the wine cellar caught fire. Another is that chemicals being used to burn bodies in the elegant courtyard sparked the blaze.

The history of a grand hotel

is also the history of a capital. It is difficult, though, to see



The Hotel Adlon was not Hitler's only watering hole in Berlin. Here he takes the salute as the Hitler Youth marches past one of his other favourites, the Deutscher Hof

how the new Berlin can recapture the same sense of being, in Percy Adlon's words, at the "heart of Europe".

It was here that Caruso, having lost his voice before a royal gala performance of *Rigoletto*, was cured by the hotel doctor. It was here that

Marlene Dietrich was discovered. Russian anarchists tried to kill Tsar Nicholas II in the hotel. Thomas Mann wrote books (he rented a suite in the hotel) and Pola Negri, last lover of Rudolph Valentino, tried to seduce the 16-year-old heir to the Adlon dynasty.

Between the First and Second World Wars, unemployed officers and hard-up aristocrats worked as gigolos in the hotel's tea-dances.

Today's Berlin has its share of good hotels but nothing quite to match the chequered history of the Adlon.

Scientists seek DNA clues to Mayan 'queen'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE stone sarcophagus of King Pacal, a legendary leader of the Mayas, is to be opened in search of clues to the identity of a woman found in a nearby tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA samples from the Red Queen have already been analysed, and now, says Dr Carlos Silva, of the Mexican National Anthropology and History Institute, the hope is to isolate similar samples from Pacal. He says the sarcophagus will be opened to remove samples from which DNA may be recoverable. Human remains do not

survive well in the tropics, but the attempt is by no means hopeless. Collagen, the structural protein found in bone and skin, has been recovered from a body in a tomb at Cuello dating back to 1200 BC, so it is possible that similar materials will be available from Pacal's tomb.

Mexican scientists plan to use DNA tests to try to prove that the "Red Queen" found in 1994, was related to Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the city now known as Palenque.

It is unlikely that any more than fragmentary pieces of DNA will be found, however. The scientists hope to isolate stretches of mitochondrial DNA, the type passed on directly down the female line. If Pacal and the Red Queen have the same mitochondrial DNA sequence, it will mean that she was a direct ancestor in the female line.

"Because of these very long inscriptions — among the longest known from anywhere in the Mayan world — we know more about Pacal than we do about King Arthur," an expert in Mayan archaeology said.

But much less is known about the Red Queen — her body, the interior of her burial chamber and her sarcophagus had been daubed with cinnabar, red mercury ore. It was plain from her sarcophagus that she was a royal person of an earlier generation than Pacal. She was found with clay offering dishes, a precious jade headdress and breastplate, carved shells and other objects.

She may have died suddenly, before workmen had time to complete the eloquent carved inscriptions that would have explained her identity and lineage.

Her tomb had been hastily plastered and Mayan pictographs painted on the walls, but centuries of seeping rainwater turned that testimony to powder, according to a Palaeo-archaeologist, Arnoldo González.

DNA

£56,000 case of wine says 'thank you'
FROM REUTER IN PARIS

IN ONE of France's biggest wine sales, Maxim's, the Paris restaurant, has auctioned 8,000 of its 100,000 bottles of great vintage wines that age had made too dear for diners. Jacques Tajan, the auctioneer, said that the sale on Wednesday night netted more than Fr9 million (£948,000), almost doubling predictions. The stars of the auction were 12 bottles of 1945 Château Mouton-Rothschild Pauillac bought for Fr52,000 (£56,000) by an unidentified German as an eighty-fifth birthday gift to a US soldier who liberated his village in 1945.

"This was an anti-Nazi German who remembered the most beautiful day in his life, the day when the American soldier kicked open the door of his home," M Tajan said. "They remained in touch after the war and he wanted to offer him the wine bottled in 1945 with the 'V for victory' sign on the label," he added.



Pierre Cardin, owner of Maxim's, with a bottle of the sale wine

Chirac talks with Jospin signal unity on Europe

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, France's Socialist Prime Minister, and Jacques Chirac, its conservative President, began power-sharing yesterday amid the sort of courtesy that may presage rapid agreement on European policy.

At the first Cabinet meeting since the Left's victory in parliamentary elections last Sunday, M Chirac shook hands with each of the 26 ministers, who described his greeting as warm. His attitude contrasted with that of the late President Mitterrand, who pointedly ignored conservative ministers when he launched France's first "co-habitation" in 1986.

However, the Gaullist head of state did not go so far as to kiss the eight women ministers on the cheek, as he used to with members of the centre-right government which lost power last weekend. Catherine Trautmann, the Culture Minister and government spokesperson, said there were so many women in the Cabinet that kissing would take up too much time.

M Jospin said the meeting, at which no policy decisions were taken, had been serious and relaxed. M Chirac told the Socialist, Communist and Green ministers: "I do not doubt the cohabitation will take place in a dignified manner with mutual respect and permanent concern for France's interests".

The polite tone had prompted consideration that M Chirac and M Jospin would attempt to reach a working compromise on key policy areas, and notably the European economic and monetary union.

On the campaign trail, M Jospin had said he wanted to loosen the EMU criteria, to renegotiate the stability pact designed to oversee the single

currency after its 1999 launch and to introduce the sort of policies that would take the French deficit above Maastricht treaty's 3 per cent ceiling.

The Prime Minister is under pressure from sections of his "rainbow alliance" to fulfil these pledges. But yesterday commentators said M Chirac was likely to find an ally in the new Foreign Minister, Hubert Védrine.

The Gaullist President has followed the European road laid out by M Mitterrand, with whom M Védrine worked closely for 14 years. They have similar opinions on EMU and will be tempted to join forces in an attempt to impose their point of view on the Cabinet's Eurosceptic wing.

M Jospin, who is due to hold talks with Tony Blair at a meeting of European Socialists in Malmö, Sweden, today, could find himself sucked into the Chirac-Védrine alliance, commentators said.

□ Lyons: Henri Emmanuelli, the former Socialist Party treasurer, was given an 18-month suspended jail term for illegal funding of the party through a consultancy that raised cash through fake invoicing and highly inflated tenders.

The court did not ban Emmanuelli, who was returned as deputy for the Landes region, from holding public office.

Emmanuelli, a former Speaker of parliament and a one-time first secretary of the party, was found guilty of complicity in corrupt practices. In March 1996, a court in Rennes sentenced Emmanuelli to an 18-month suspended term and fined him Fr30,000 (£3,200) in another trial which involved the same consultancy. (AFP)



Lionel Jospin addresses members of his new Cabinet on the steps of the Elysée Palace yesterday before going in to meet President Chirac

Female intake rejects flower-pot image

Unlike the Juppéttes, who were little more than window-dressing, the eight women ministers have built their own power bases

WHEN Alain Juppé appointed 12 women to his centre-right government in 1995 they became known as the Juppéttes. There is little chance that the six women named as Cabinet ministers and two as junior ministers in Lionel Jospin's administration will earn such a condescending epithet (Adam Sage writes).

Unlike the Juppéttes, who were little more than window-dressing, the eight women ministers have built their own power bases

the tentative post of Justice Minister because of her reputation as a rigorous and competent intellectual.

A former European Affairs Minister and close associate of the late President Mitterrand, with whom she negotiated the Maastricht treaty, she is not to be trifled with, as Bernard Tapie knows.

The flamboyant Socialist entrepreneur, now serving a jail sentence for corruption, once suggested she could boost her popularity by buying crimson-coloured lingerie. One look from Madame Guigou was enough to wipe

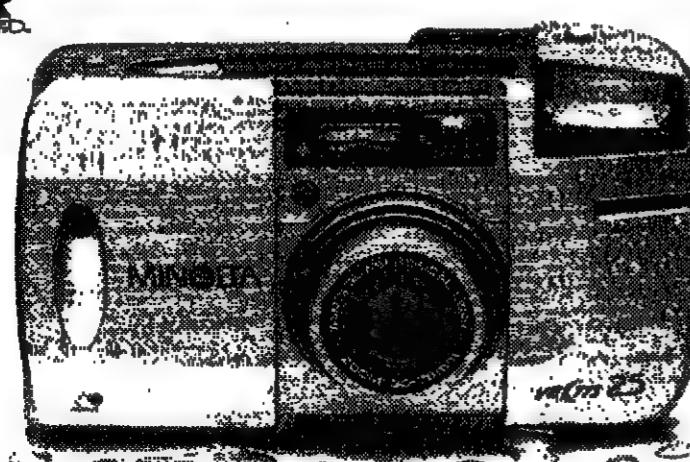
the insolent smirk off Tapie's face. Catherine Trautmann, 46, will bring an equally formidable if less austere reputation to the high-profile Ministry of Culture. Since 1989, when she won a surprise victory to become Mayor of Strasbourg, she has been the darling of the French media, tired of grey-haired men in grey suits. She is best known for organising a successful anti-National Front demonstration this spring when Jean-Marie Le Pen's xenophobic movement held a congress in her home town.

The French press greeted her ap-

pointment and that of Madame Aubry and Madame Guigou with enthusiasm. But it said M Jospin would face difficulties as he tried to find the balance between spending commitments and the Maastricht criteria for economic and monetary union. The two men at the centre of this high-wire act are the Foreign Minister, Hubert Védrine, 49, and the Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, 48.

M Strauss-Kahn — known as DSK — was expected to be less well received, especially by the financial market. An economics professor, he was responsible for the Socialists' election manifesto, which promised job creation, wage rises and a reduction in the working week.

But the only person who reacted badly to his appointment was Madame Aubry, who believes his minis-try is too powerful.



MINOLTA

A watertight case for the Vectis 25.

4 group lens design, with 4 aspheric lens surfaces, has been incorporated into the Vectis 25. Offering you 2.5x zoom ratio. Exactly what you need to get great results.

In fact, with the Vectis 25 you'll never have to keep your fingers crossed, ever.

This new technology virtually guarantees it.

Getting in the right mode for the shot.

No matter what you're shooting you can set the camera so that you're sure to get it right every time.

In Auto Mode all the camera functions operate automatically. So whether you're taking a landscape or a close-up this will take total care of the technical side.

You simply concentrate on the composition.

But should you prefer to be more creative, with the Vectis 25 you can select precisely the right programme to suit the subject.

In Portrait Mode the lens automatically zooms to give you 'waist up' framing.

Set it to 'Close-Up' and you can be as close as 40cm to your subject. Decide on Night Portrait Mode and you're able to make the very most of bright background highlights.

And if you switch to Landscape Mode you're able to take sharper landscape and night scene photographs.

Then there's the built-in auto-flash which also offers you a choice of modes: 'Fill-in Flash', Flash Cancel and Red-Eye Reduction.

Exactly the right specs for glasses.

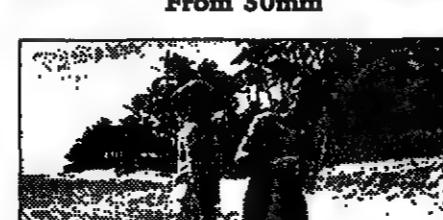
The Vectis 25 has a feature especially helpful for those who wear glasses.

Called the Long Eye Relief Viewfinder it makes viewing and framing more easy and comfortable. The entire subject image can be seen in the viewfinder, even with the camera held up to an inch away from your eye.

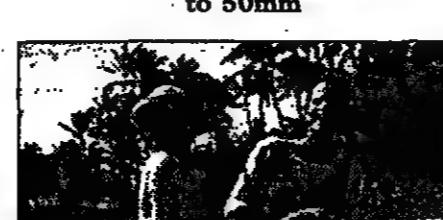
And, we should add, there are a couple of advantages you enjoy after you've taken your pictures.



From 30mm



to 50mm



to 75mm Zoom

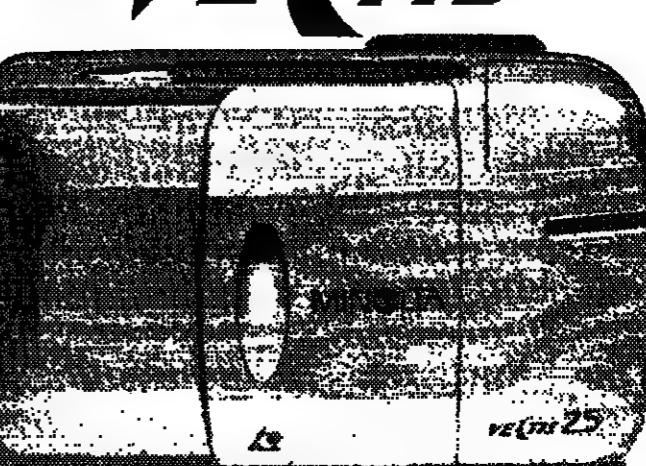
Vectis 10

Vectis 20

Vectis 25

Vectis 30

Vectis 40



Only from the mind of Minolta.

Killer forced popular teacher to reveal cashpoint number

Tycoon's son 'was tortured to death'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

DETECTIVES believe that the murdered son of Gerald Levin, head of Time Warner, was almost certainly tortured with a steak knife by his killer until he disclosed the pin number of his cashpoint card.

Jonathan Levin, 31, a schoolteacher, was found lying in a pool of blood on Monday night at his flat in New York's Upper West side. His body, bound in tape, bore deep gashes and a single gunshot had been fired into the right side of his head.

The police believe that Mr Levin died between 3.45pm and 5pm on Friday. He was last seen alive that afternoon, walking his puppy, Julius, an australis.

Because there was no sign of a forced entry at his flat, the police are studying whether he met someone on the street whom he knew, possibly one of his pupils at the William H. Taft High School in the



under video surveillance and the film is expected to give the police a substantial lead.

Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan District Attorney, said yesterday: "This is a case that is going to be solved, hopefully very quickly."

The police seem to have ruled out the possibility that Mr Levin was the victim of a homosexual serial killer. Initially, the FBI had seen "vague similarities" between the manner of his death and that of four other men, killed last month by a suspected murderer called Andrew Cunanan, a former male prostitute who is on the run from the police.

There were scenes of grief at Mr Levin's funeral on Tuesday. Mourners, who included nearly 300 pupils from his high school, wept as Lee Levin, his older brother, said: "Jon's my little brother, but for a number of years I've looked up to him like he was my big brother."

The murdered schoolteacher was the son of one of



A police officer checks a window at the flat where Jonathan Levin was found dead

America's business titans. Yet his lifestyle was as modest as his job in the Bronx. Friends say that Mr Levin never wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father, Matthew Dwyer, a fellow teacher, said: "He was very close to his dad,

but he wanted to have his own career, to make his own life. And he did that by helping children."

His death has hit the school like a sledgehammer. A gifted, popular teacher, he was known to make time for pupils

who were academically weak and socially deprived.

The esteem in which he was held by those he had taught could be seen at his funeral. One girl carried a banner which read "We were his children".

NEW YORK'S liberals, world champions at breast-beating,

have a treat in store for them this weekend when *The New York Times* brings out its Sunday magazine, a special issue on how the world sees America.

The answer, for those who cannot wait, is simple: "the world" appears not to like America much.

The magazine, filled with dense and deadly text, is the liberal American's dream. From Marina Warner, Gina Lollobrigida and Thomas Keneally, Australian author of *Schindler's Ark*, to the Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer, writers queue up to trash Uncle Sam. "Progressive" types here, for whom self-flagellation is a cherished hobby, will take to this as cats to creamy milk.

After an opening salvo on America's "cultural imperialism" by Michiko Kakutani, the chief book reviewer of *The New York Times*, Britain's Ms Warner sets the tone of things to come in an essay called "Bloated".

In it, the feminist author of *Six Myths of Our Times* writes that "bigness still defines America, but a bigness grown pillowy and flaccid and fluffy and fat like baby flesh". She adduces no evidence for this, of course, just as she fails to for her other thesis, that the United States is suffering from "late 90s infantilism".

Nadine Gordimer, the dowager duchess of white South African liberals, bowls a juicy full-toss to America's white "self-hatred" lobby. In a piece called "Separate", she asserts that "American blacks want to stay segregated, and who can blame them?"

Ms Gordimer writes: "When you have been so long rejected, your collective consciousness tells you that the open door... has come too late. You gain your self-respect by saying no."

Signora Lollobrigida, the Italian sex symbol from another age, also weighs into

the debate on how the world sees America, attacking its women for their looks. "American women are always obsessed with the dieting and the plastic surgery, but the more they try to go backward and look younger the more the result is the opposite. They end up looking ridiculous."

Virtol is also administered by Julie Burchill. After making the now-too-startling assertion that American men have sex on the brain, she declares that "no country outside of the Muslim world fears loafers and oppresses women as much as the USA".

Mayra Montero, the Cuban novelist, avers that "a country composed of promiscuous Puritans was never going to be at ease with itself".

There is more. The Nigerian novelist Wole Soyinka, whose right to write freely in his own country has been backed most strongly by America, goes on, nonetheless, to describe Americans as "rude".

Peter Schneider, a writer from Berlin, chides Americans for their too-perfect teeth; and Oliviero Toscani, the chief creative director for the Benetton group, growls that he has "never met anyone so idiotic as an American ad man".

So America's liberal angst will blossom, well watered by these writers from abroad. "Oh woe," people will say this Sunday. "No one likes us and it's all our own fault."



Lollobrigida: women in US obsessed with diet

EVERY DAY HITACHI ACTS ON TOMORROW

Worldwide, Hitachi research centres are arriving at product innovations:

ideas that will change the way we run our lives.

In the electronics field, we are producing new products all the time.

We are making advancements continually in

specialist areas such as semi-conductors and computers. Each and every day

the feeling is that anything can be achieved.

Where the world will be tomorrow - is happening right now.



Magnetic Resonance Imaging Systems
Hitachi's Magnetic Resonance Systems are being used worldwide to produce high resolution body scans

Super TFT Screens
The Hitachi range of super TFT screens give you a clearer, wider view



24 years in jail for CIA double agent

FROM BRONWEN MADDOCK
IN WASHINGTON

THE CIA double agent Harold Nicholson was sentenced yesterday to nearly 24 years in prison and a \$250,000 (£155,000) fine for selling documents to the Russians.

Nicholson, 46, who had worked for the CIA for 20 years, was arrested at Washington's Dulles International Airport in November on his way to a meeting with Russian agents in Switzerland.

States to get money for his children. But he added that through his actions "I have lost everything that was ever dear and important to me, everything that was ever of value".

Nicholson, 46, who had

worked for the CIA for 20 years, was arrested at Washington's Dulles International Airport in November on his way to a meeting with Russian agents in Switzerland.

- Use your degree
- Study part-time
- Become a secondary school teacher.

Ever thought of a teaching career? If you have a degree you can train in your own time through one of Britain's most successful and prestigious postgraduate programmes. What's more, your fees will be paid and you can nominate a local school for your teaching practice.

So there's no need to give up work or leave your family in the lurch. The OU has designed the Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme around you.

Winner of the 1996 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education, the OU's PGCE programme offers courses in:

- Maths • Science • Design & Technology
- English • History • Music
- French

There are special bursaries available if you want to teach Maths, Science, or Design & Technology. French students will be eligible to attend a one week residential course in France all expenses paid.

How it works
The course runs for 18 months, from February 1998 to July 1999, and includes periods of full-time teaching experience in schools. There will also be group study sessions and you will be supported by your own personal tutor. The courses include study guides and resource materials, audio and video cassettes. You will receive the loan of a personal computer, printer and modem.

Call today
If you've ever thought you'd like to be a secondary school teacher, ask for your free PGCE prospectus today. Simply complete the coupon or ring the Hotline on 01908 365302.

Complete and send this coupon to: PG7BM
The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.
□ Please send me your PGCE prospectus.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel No _____

To save time call the Hotline 01908 365302
Internet: <http://www.open.ac.uk/OUStudy.html>

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

HITACHI

Contact Hitachi at: www.hitachi-eu.com

Trafficmaster
Car Navigation Systems
Hitachi's microcomputers are being used in the Trafficmaster Car Navigation System to help keep you moving

WHAT'S NEW

1998

EST. COM. 166 ML

799

HOME MED.

£869

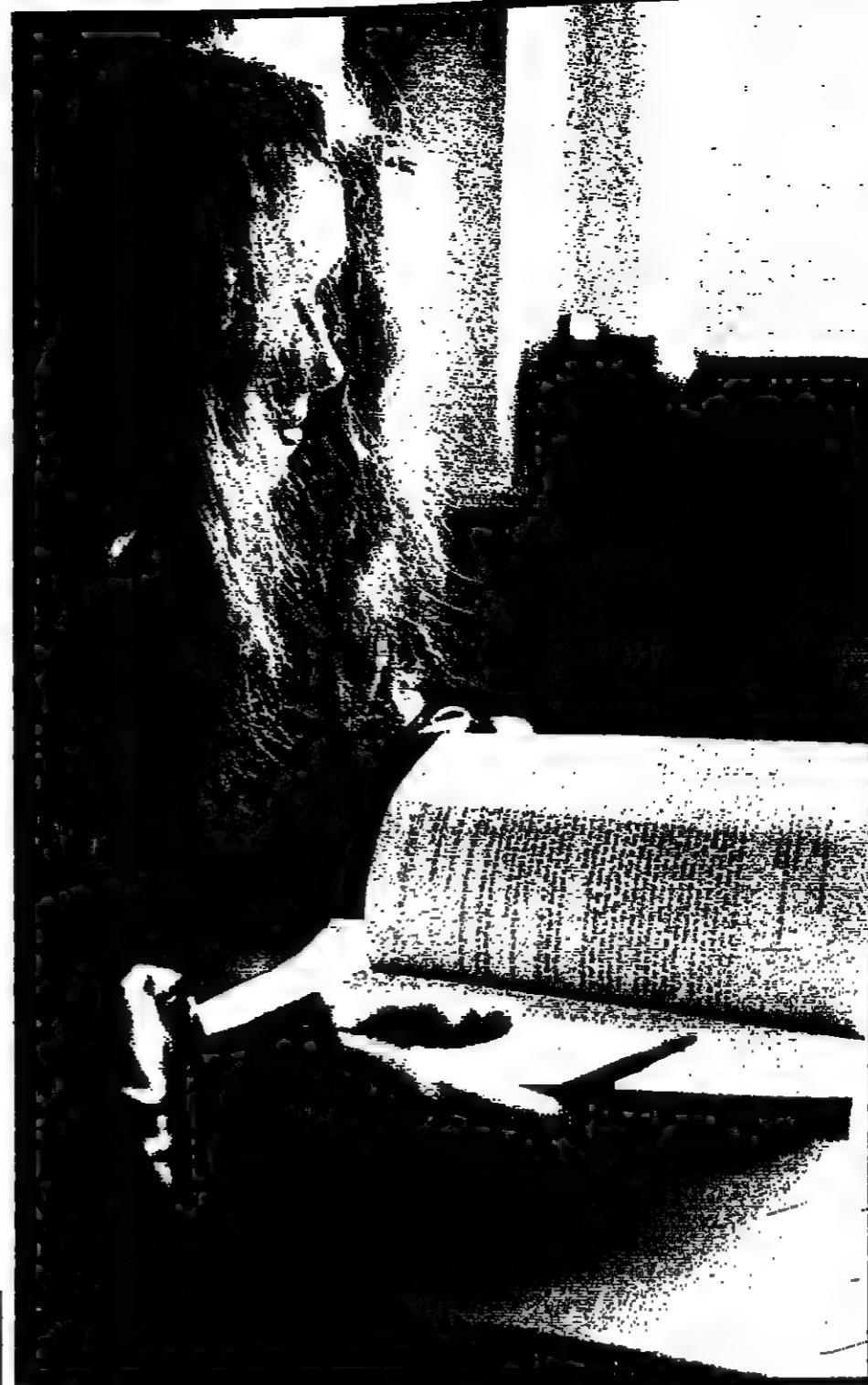
DO YOU SHOUT BUT

Opinionated

Surviving family exam fever



GCSE course work and modules have meant that it is no longer possible to pass exams on the basis of last-minute revision



Pupils are so worried about results that they have become revision recluses

The WHSmith Half Price Sale.

Pay for half a video or book and get the other half free.

Thousands of great videos and books at half price, such as

Take That The Movie, was £4.99, now £2.49

or Jeffrey Archer's Fourth Estate, was £16.99, now £8.49

Other great offers include

selected videos and books for £1. See instore for details.

Whatever you're into get into WHSmith

SALE ENDS 28TH JUNE 1997. ALL SALE PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN ON SALE AT THE HIGHER PRICE IN AT LEAST ONE WHSMITH STORE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT WHSMITH STORES IN ENGLAND AND WALES EXCLUDING AIRPORTS AND SMALLER STATIONS. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED.

July 1997

Children today are under greater academic pressure than ever before. Has the drive for success gone too far? Jane Gordon investigates

The pills were lying on her desk partly obscured by a pile of notes and several reference books. My initial fear was that my 16-year-old daughter might be taking drugs — amphetamines, Ecstasy, or some other frightening and potentially addictive substance. But when I picked up the little phial of tablets and discovered that they were Pro-Plus — a caffeine-based product which can be bought over the counter at any chemist — I experienced a different kind of anxiety.

Because the bottle of pills that I had found were not designed to take her out of her head — as they might have been for my own generation some 20 years ago — they were stimulants she was using to keep herself mentally alert during a punishing revision regime for the first-year A-level modules she is taking next week.

And while, of course, I should be grateful that the only thing my daughter is currently addicted to is hard work, I must admit to a growing disquiet at the extraordinary academic pressures being placed on her generation.

Far from being the slackers portrayed by the media, my daughter and her peers are, I believe, expected to work far harder than their parents ever did. The changes in the education system that have taken place since O levels became GCSEs have not made their lives easier. On the contrary, the advent of course work and modules has meant that it is no longer possible, as I was in my day, to pass exams with a little last-minute revision.

I am not the only parent experiencing doubt about the way in which children are being programmed to achieve. Conversations at the school gates are now punctuated by tales of pupils so stressed by their exams that they have become revision recluses.

Last week a friend rang me in a panic to tell me that her daughter had become so obsessed with doing well in her end-of-year exams that she had recorded revision tapes which she left playing on an auto-reverse tape recorder throughout the night.

It's hardly surprising, really, that my daughter and the rest of her generation are so anxious about their exams. They were virtually weaned on talk of education. Their names were entered at birth onto the waiting lists of all the best schools. Before they could walk they had been enrolled in a series of programmes designed to maximise their learning potential. By the time they were three years old, most of my daughter's friends were attending Montessori schools, and at four, they were in full-time formal education. Little wonder that as they reach

their GCSEs, many of them are spending as much as 14 hours a day studying.

"My son's revision timetable has dominated our family life for the past three months. He has no time for anything but work, and he has even reached the stage where he rationed the amount of football he watches. This week he refused to allow himself the time to watch the England-Italy match," says Nicky Rees, whose son, Justin, is taking 11 GCSEs this summer.

Justin is probably suffering from a particularly high level of pressure because he is a pupil at St Paul's School, in south-west London, one of the country's top five schools. "The masters are really good in that they don't say 'you have got to get an A* in this subject'. They simply tell us to do our best. But I know that at St Paul's, our best is an A*", and that anything other than an A is regarded as failure. And we

string of GCSEs and excellent A levels — it took her months to find a menial job," she says.

One of the major factors behind the boom in education — in the past five years, the number of students going on to university has gone from one in eight to one in three — is employment. The perceived belief that it is not possible to get a job on the checkout at Sainsbury without an Oxford double first has fuelled the relentless race for qualifications.

It has to be said, though, that much of the pressure put on children has come not from the academic establishment, but from parents. Louise Wall, head teacher at the Falcons, West London, believes that often it is the parents who set the agenda for their children. "I think it is linked to the fact that nowadays people are delaying having children.

"They plan when they will have a family. They don't want to have children until they have the right house, the right car and so on. Just as they want the best for themselves, so they want the best for their children. I have had prospective parents in my office telling me that their child is going to Colet Court, St Paul's, and St John's College, Oxford, before that child has even learnt to walk or talk," she says.

Sheila Allsop — the mother of 16-year-old Katy, who is in the middle of sitting her GCSEs — concedes that she is very nearly as anxious about the exams as her daughter.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this competitive feeling is as common among the parents as it is among my daughter's peers. I feel that it is particularly important for Katy to do well because she attends a state school in an area in which the vast majority of middle-class parents have opted for private education. I try very hard to play that down, but I cannot deny that I am as agitated right now as Katy is," she says.

So how can we defuse the pressure our children are experiencing? Jean Scott, Headmistress of South Hampstead High School, London, believes that parents should play down the importance of their children's exams, and try not to talk about their education in front of them. "Reassure them that exams are not the be-all and end-all of life. Remind them that they should be having fun at this stage of their lives. It does worry me that there is so little fun in education any more," she says.

The trouble is that for many parents it may be too late. We might have bred a generation of education junkies — or in my daughter's case, a student with a Pro-Plus dependency — and we could find that the learning habit is as difficult to lose as any other addiction.

Affordable healthcare
0500 66996
Lifetime Healthcare from

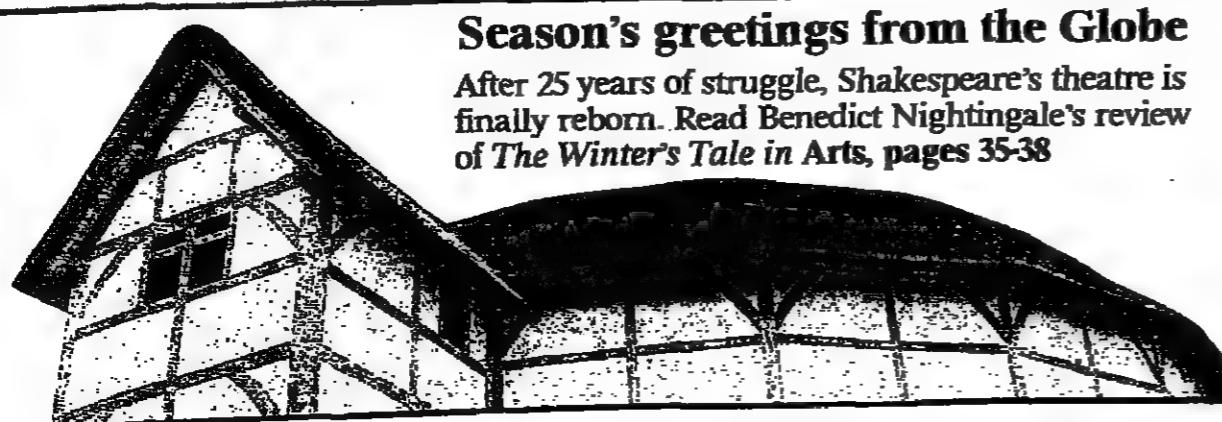
'I'm not blokeish, I'm affable'



Peter Lilley: "Being a leadership candidate is very different from being a minister in a beleaguered Government"

Season's greetings from the Globe

After 25 years of struggle, Shakespeare's theatre is finally reborn. Read Benedict Nightingale's review of *The Winter's Tale in Arts*, pages 35-38



Affordable Healthcare
FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B17/DL28
0500 669966

PRIVACY PROTECTION: CALL FREE AND BE RELEASERED AND BOUND BY CONTRACT

Legal & General

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Seychelles & Mauritius
Exotic tropical islands, stunning white sands, virtually unbroken coral reefs, warm spice scented winds create your tropical paradise.

7nts Seychelles (B&B) from £783

7nts Mauritius (B&B) from £915

Travel-arranged holidays can be arranged. Seychelles/Mauritius combinations are available.

Scheduled flights from London Heathrow to Seychelles via Nairobi and from London Gatwick to Mauritius.

Ask your Travel Agent to contact Sunak Holidays

0181 423 3000

Sunak Holidays ABTA ATOL 1558

Peter Lilley has become a changed man since the start of the Tory leadership campaign. Interview by Valerie Grove. Photograph by Chris Harris

You're never going to be a Ken Clarke bloke, are you?" I ask Peter Lilley over breakfast. "I'm not blokeish. I may be affable," Lilley says affably, adding: "Actually I'm probably more blokeish politically, but less blokeish socially than Ken. My political instincts are much more in tune with The Bloke, in terms of a Eurosceptic approach."

But Mr Lilley keeps his intellectually sharp and amusing side private. For a moment after the election, I thought he had had a demeanour transplant when he appeared on *Question Time*. He was no longer hirsute; one sensed the shedding of the carcass of office. "I did feel different," he says. "People tell me I've sparkled since this campaign began. Being overly a candidate for the leadership is very different from being a minister in a beleaguered Government, trying not to rock the boat." Meanwhile, Ken Clarke, oozing easy amusement and bonhomie, had no need to change his demeanour or even his shoes. Clarke is, as Lord Blake says, approvingly, "a tough, a thug and a bruiser".

The boisterous, brainy Mr Lilley is none of these things, but he has been quietly intending to stand for the leadership ever since the Redwood challenge to John Major. He says it dawned on him even before the last election how vulnerable the Tories had become, with a thoroughly dislikeable picture of themselves implanted in the public mind. Writing in *The Spectator* last week, he admitted: "We assumed it didn't matter, because they still feared Labour more than they disliked us. Once Labour made itself less feared, it mattered a lot that we were disliked."

Candidacy cushions him from the familiar ex-ministerial pathos: the loss of perks. A chauffeur car still waits for him at the door, courtesy of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who also provided the private plane in which he, Gillian Shephard and Archer toured the land last week, addressing the disenfranchised Tory activists.

Archer's routine at these meetings is to tell them how he was involved in Margaret Thatcher's selection, then in John Major's, now Lilley's — whereupon Lilley draws attention to the fact that Jeffrey Archer has always backed the winner.

One can only admire these shell-shocked Tories — chastened, rueful, traumatised like the survivors of an air disaster — mustering the zest needed to contest the leadership, hoping to revive the popularity of a diminished, divided, jaded party. This week the Saatchis produced, for *The Guardian*, a spoof Lilley poster with pictures of all the disgraced Tories, and the words "Why you should vote for a man you've never heard of?" Lilley guffawed with laughter at this. He enjoys

jokes about his own obscurity. But, he added, on the boat from Dieppe the other day (he nipped over to their farmhouse in France for his 18th wedding anniversary) old ladies and inebriated youths had begun to recognise him.

I told him he should flaunt his vivacious wife, Gail. He said he had flaunted her the night before, at a party Archer threw in his famous penthouse for 30 still undeclared Tory MPs. The childless Lilley has two other homes: one in the constituency, one in a less fashionable area of Islington than the Blairs'. Normandy is where Gail paints her rustic portraits, rabbits and still lifes. Not at all the Christine Hamilton type, she thinks her husband is mad to go for the leadership, "though she is prepared to loan me out in the national interest. After all, she was involved in politics before meeting me."

Gail Ansell was a Haringey councillor at the time of the 1975 referendum when she recruited Lilley for the Keep Britain in Europe movement. "I was a bit sceptical even then, but I'd been told she was very pretty and when she rang I thought I'd better go." If wives were wheeled out in a Mrs Personality contest, Mrs Lilley would outshine most. But are we to play this presidential game? None of the Tory contenders could match the Happy Family Moving Into No 10 show staged by the Blairs on May 2. A hard act to follow, I suggest.

"Moods change," Lilley says equably. "People like the novelty, and the media seem quite mesmerised, not just by the newness of it all, but by the sense of control imposed on them. It astonishes me: even anti-Labour journalists don't seem to resent the fact that they're really got to toe the line now. But all that will change, over a period."

He thinks people will begin to resent a Prime Minister who takes a ceremonial role, modelled on the American President, and treats Parliament as a poodle on a very short leash.

There is an inherent bossiness in this Government. Having promised not to raise taxes, all they can do is boss people round by laws and regulations, moving down the agenda of political correctness to the pernicketyness of things like bells on bicycles ... Governments need to have a mental bias against legislation."

On *Newsnight* this week, confronting Lilley over the referendum guillotine, it was Peter Mandelson's turn to make the crestfallen Lilley almost cry. He still lacks bombast and comph. When I last spoke to him in 1993, about welfare benefit dependency, I would use exasperated words like *recklessness* and *stupidity* — how had we come to allow people to produce children, without even considering how they might feed and clothe them?

— while he seemed to tread on eggshells. One longed for him to thump a table.

Why did it take the Tories so long to get round to shaking out the dependency culture? "Well, I came along and did something about it." True, but the Labour Government is reaping the rewards. It will be Frank Field who will get to grips with the housing benefit scam. Lilley, being decent, declares a warm regard for Field. "He was supportive in Opposition where initially Labour were not, until they realised that their own supporters were rather keen on doing something about benefit fraud too."

Nor has Lilley the naked ambition that gleams in the eye of Howard and Hague. The young pretender was once Lilley's junior minister (people often said how alike they were, except that Hague looked by far the older) and it was Lilley who recommended Hague to John Major for a Cabinet post.

Lilley was a quiet, self-contained child, the son of a BBC personnel manager, in Hayes, a Kentish village outside Bromley, birthplace of Pit the Younger. "Every day I'd pass the plaque saying he was Prime Minister at 24. So ever since 24 I feel really time is flying." He will be 54 in August.

He won a scholarship to Dulwich College but at Cambridge, unlike the rest of the Cambridge mafia at the time — Howard, Gummer, Clarke — he was too shy to debate at the Union. "Scientists like me had to work, unlike those doing PPE. And my background was not one of indulging in public speaking, though it fascinated me. I sat and watched and tried to learn it by osmosis. I always had the rather arrogant feeling that I could do it better, but I didn't know how you started."

Yet he claims now to thrive on debate and to long to lean on that dispatch box: "The bit of Parliament I like best is questions and wind-up speeches, much less formal and prepared, late at night when the House is in a lively mood."

This week he should have been in Montreux speaking on "Society — Quo Vadis?" *Mindful of Mrs Thatcher's crucial absence in Paris during the challenge to her leadership, he had himself filmed instead.* Yesterday he was making a speech about the new Government still behaving like an Opposition, dealing in rhetoric, soundbites and photo opportunities.

As the week has progressed the odds have shortened in his favour and it looks now like a three-horse race. He pins his hopes on becoming either the Right's Anyone But Clarke candidate in the second ballot, or the Clarke faction's second, unifying choice. "Our numbers show me doing fantastically well," he told me yesterday. But it still beats me why he wants to be there at all.

Leading article, page 23

THE DIRECT LINE SAVINGS CHALLENGE

Question:
Can your bank or building society match
our savings rates?
Answer:
See below.

	£1- £4,999	£5,000- £9,999	£10,000- £24,999	£25,000- £49,999	£50,000- £99,999	£100,000+
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.75%	5.25%	5.85%	6.00%	6.25%	6.35%
Halifax Solid Gold (30 Day Notice)	3.00% [†]	3.25%	4.00%	4.50%	4.60%	4.60%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	3.50%	4.20%	4.80%	5.10%	5.90% ^{††}
Nationwide Capitalbuilder 90 Day	4.00% [†]	4.30%	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%	5.10%
TSB 60 Day (60 Day Notice)	3.00% [†]	3.25%	4.30%	4.75%	5.00%	5.00%

All rates are gross*, based on annual payment of interest and correct at 28th May 1997. Source: Moneyfacts.
*Rate effective from £500. [†]Rate effective from £200,000.

- As the table shows, the answer seems to be 'no'.
- Our savings rates were higher anyway, now we've raised them again.
- And with Direct Line you get *instant access* to your money too.
- The more savings you have the higher our rates get.
- You can pool your savings with family or friends for even higher returns.
- Call Direct Line, you'll find we're more than a match for the banks and building societies.



0181 667 1121 0161 833 1121 0141 221 1121
LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT87

www.directline.co.uk

Banking not provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NN, which is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under this scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £10,000 (or £20,000 if greater). Further details of the scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation. For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.

Philip Howard



Fancy life on the ocean wave, Halifax? You're cruisin' for a snoozin'

Hip, hip, hurray! — through gritted teeth — for the Halifax. Each of its 7.6 million members has received an average windfall bonus of £2,500 as the building society mutates into a bank. This makes those of us with the Woolwich or lesser building societies experience the converse of *Schadenfreude*, meaning grief at someone else's pleasure. The four-letter English word for this emotion is envy.

But our grimaces of congratulation for luckier punters turn into grins of pleasure with the news that most of them are planning to blow their windfalls on a cruise. This improbable story is reported by the travel companies, which are as usual launching their next autumn/winter/spring/summer brochures. And so it is as unreliable as the rest of the information in those glossy packages of romance, wishful thinking and downright statistics. Most of us could find a good use for £2,500. We could buy new carpets or a new kitchen, or bring a smirk of incredulity into the bank manager's door life.

But you might just as well be jealous of somebody for having mumps or for making a drunken pass at the chairman as for going on a cruise. Not for nothing does the word come from the Latin *crux*, and so is related to "crucify", "excruciating" and "cross-country running". Its ultimate origin is Punic. For the Carthaginians were world experts on the related activities of torture and cruising. But their Club Meds had iron spikes.

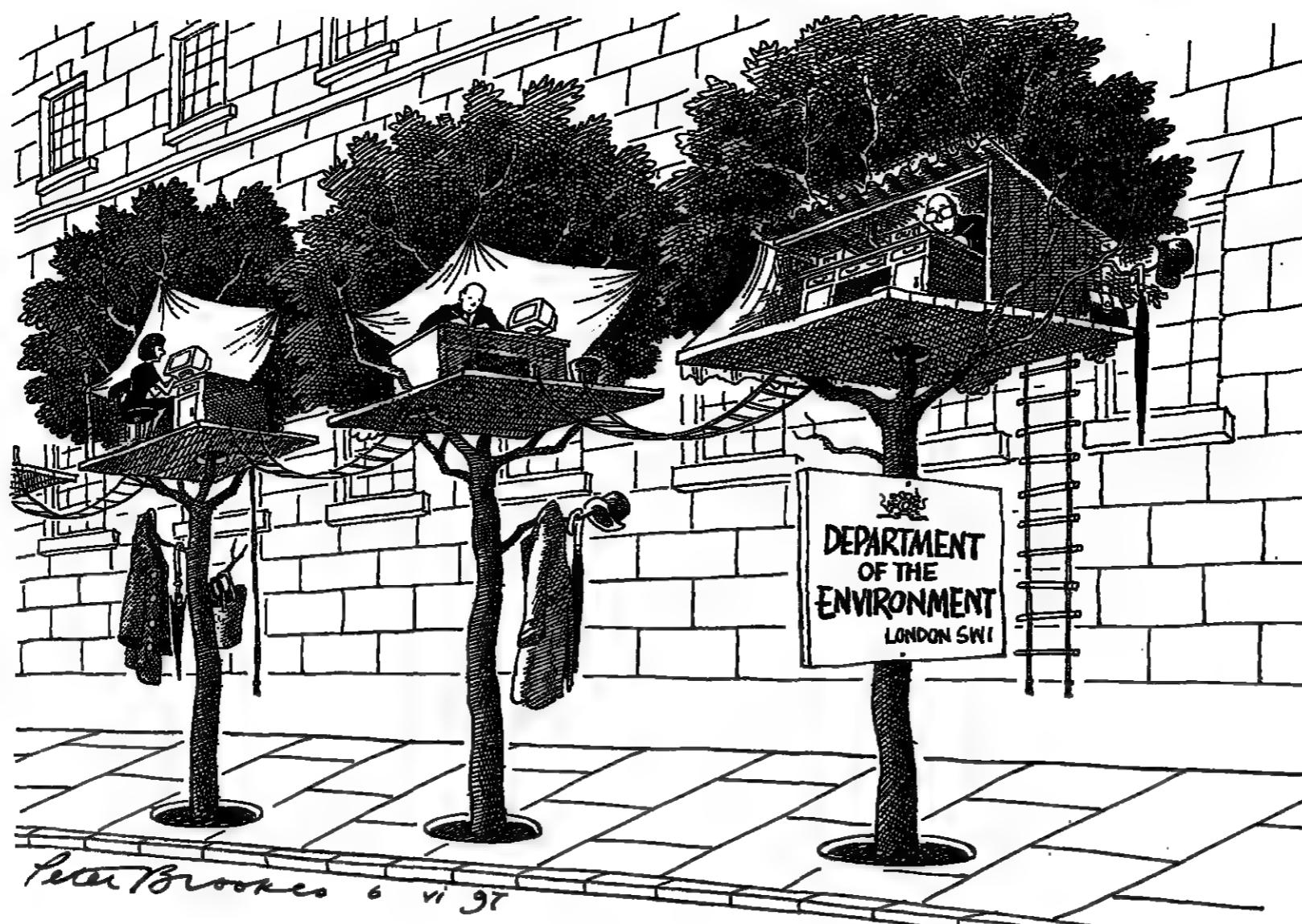
The notion that a cruise is a luxurious and glamorous holiday is an old wives' and old widowers' tale. Even in the golden age of cruising in the Thirties, life on the ocean wave for cruise passengers was not all it was cracked up to be by Hollywood and the gossip columns. Such celebrities as were present were either locked in their cabins or at the captain's table. As Dr Johnson noticed, a ship is as penitential as a prison, with less interesting company. And who is this John Prescott lookalike, raging with class envy beneath his smile, and hanging around with his hand out for his tip for having remembered your name? He must be your friendly cabin steward.

Nobody can swallow the gross over-eating and over-drinking. Quite *au contraire* for those of us with nervous stomachs at sea. The constant hearty activity on board is copied from primitive holiday or concentration camps. The latest hypercruise liners have miniature golf courses and driving ranges from which to hit balls into the ocean, and "run a mile with a smile" around the decks, announced over the loudspeakers with the fake enthusiasm of the man at Butlin's shouting, "Wakey, wakey, cruisers!" So why go to sea to practise such pointless land-based activities?

From the very beginning the literature has advised against going to sea for pleasure. You are likely to be kidnapped by a cannibal giant with one eye or turned into swine by a witch, in a suitable transformation for those who cruise to eat at the captain's table. Or a Sid James lookalike may turn up as your (inappropriate) captain, or you are capsized by a tidal wave in *The Poseidon Adventure*. The only jolly cruise ever taken in fiction was in *Monkey Business*, and you cannot count on the Marx Brothers being on your passenger list with the blue rinses from Des Moines. Any activity of which the high point is the daily lottery, in which passengers guess the number of miles covered in the previous 24 hours, must be pretty boring.

A cruise is travel without getting anywhere, or meeting different people, or opening one's eyes to new sights or one's mouth to foreign foods. Nobody wants to hear about your cruise when you get back home. And your nerdish relatives are not only sorry you went on a cruise, but deeply regret that you came back.

The only tolerable cruises are those in the company of like-minded enthusiasts and lecturers to look at antiquities, paintings or historic sites. But you still see more, and get the feel of foreign ports better, on foot than by cruise. All voyages are also voyages inside oneself. But a cruise rejects the food, avoids the customs, fears the religion, mistrusts the plumbing and avoids the people of foreign parts. You might just as well stay at home. So we at the Woolwich are taking the Halifax windfall with a superior smile.



Tories need votes, not roots

All at once it has become commonplace to assert that the first and most important task of any new Tory leader is to buck up the organisation and morale of the Conservative Party in the country. The essential precondition to recovery of our electoral strength was the way the chairmen of the National Union of Conservative Associations described what they called "the top priority".

Like so many plietes repeated as mantras, the assertion is tosh. When a party triumphs at an election, journalists are dispatched to produce articles on the "formidable fighting machine" the party has become. When a party crashes, the quest is for news of its organisational failure. But the Tory party's organisation has always been dreadful, and Labour's is not as good as is claimed.

In politics the myth of "structure and communications" is fast becoming a ruling false nostrum. Not unnaturally, it is peddled by those whose skills lie in these fields. Your Mandelsons and your Millbank managers have persuaded the world — and parts of the Conservative Party — that Labour owes its success to presentation. But it was *content*, not cladding, which won for Labour on May 1. The electorate, already sick of the Tories, could see Tony Blair was not a socialist. Every opinion poll registered their near patriotic gratitude at the news. All the rest — the volunteers, the professionals, the money, phone lines, the party machine — followed. But without the central fact of the new Blair-Brown ideology, the machine could never have produced victory.

The Tories do not need a better machine or more members. They need more voters. If the party wishes to enliven its grass roots, it should get itself a good chairman as Chairman. If it wants to win elections, it should get a leader whose message is popular and whose appeal is direct to the nation.

To attract voters, the party and its leader need to engage and please that 98 per cent of us who have never joined any political party, takes little sustained interest in politics, and never will. Such people are not reached via the party's grassroots activity, they are repelled by it. They are reached direct (and often despite the party's national organisation) through the broadcast and print media. The next leader must be, par excellence, a mass communicator: a maestro, not a general manager: a

A Conservative leader's duty is never to pander to activists, but to command the argument and the MPs in Westminster

commander, not a fixer. The Conservative Party in the country is not and never could be a bridge to a wider Britain. It is a cul-de-sac of untypical electors with certain limited fundraising capabilities and an unusual wish to gather for mostly social purposes under the banner of an apparently political but covertly class-based national club.

The facts, then. There is no simple correlation between the size and vigour of a party's national membership and its propensity to win elections. In 1992 the Tory party's membership stood at its

lowest for more than 50 years. That year, more people voted Conservative than ever before. In 1974, the year Harold Wilson won both general elections, the Conservative Party had five times as many members as the Labour Party. The size and morale of any British political party is linked with two factors. But it is consequence, not a cause, of both.

First, it is subject to a long-term, half-century-old, underlying and irreversible decline in national party membership. People have better things to do these days. Why would anyone with a job to do or a family to raise attend party meetings or fill in questionnaires? It should be eccentric — or, in the lingo of the decade, "sad".

The decline in Tory membership, a phenomenon suddenly on every journalist's lips, has been going on since the 1950s. At the height of her command, Margaret Thatcher led a party with about a quarter of the membership a floundering Anthony Eden could survey. Since 1960 the party has been losing some 6,000 members a year. Nor is the increase in their average age a recent phenomenon. The collapse of the Young Conservatives accelerated during the 1980s, at the very time when the party's vote-gathering was gaining momentum. Distorting this underlying decline, however, are shorter-term fluctuations

in the membership of parties. They go in and out of favour. When (as with the Tories now) a sharp cyclical fall piggybacks on to an underlying, historical decline, the gradient becomes breathtaking. The downstroke in the cycle — and here the commentators are right — is indeed linked with political failure at Westminster. It is caused by it. Getting Westminster right will bring the upstroke in membership. An upstroke in membership will not get Westminster right.

If this Government stumbles and loses popularity, we shall see the hundreds of thousands of new members Mr Blair has recruited melt away like a spring snowfall. If John Major's successor looks and sounds good in the House and in the media — and the message, the argument — is right, we shall see

a sharp recovery in Tory membership. But, as the century turns, each succeeding peak and trough in the short-term cycle of party membership will be lower than those that went before. This does not matter. There is no reason why parties should have mass memberships, a quest in which, in Europe, Fascism and Communism have led the field.

Why, then, should the Tories want more members? It has not proved necessary in the past. Do we perhaps suppose that, given the plight of the Tory party now, a reinvigorated and enlarged grassroots organisation could help in the future? I doubt this, too. The money is marginal. Around 5 per cent of the party's central funds comes from the constituencies. A bit more could be whipped up, but this is unlikely to be critical. And, though local associations do help to fund their local campaigns, there is no evidence of any strong correlation between the money spent on a constituency campaign and the swing achieved.

Much has been made of the local government argument. It is doubtful, however, that the local government argument is

Success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends. It is true that Liberal Democrats build from a local base, but as a party of protest. Exercising power in the town hall rarely makes you popular. Tory councillors do contribute to the vigour of a grassroots organisation; but whether either feeds (rather than feeds upon) success at Westminster is another

success in local elections, like success in recruiting new members, is a consequence, not a determinant, of national trends



THE TORY CHOICE

A weekend of consultation and decision lies ahead

This weekend is the last chance for Conservative MPs to consult in their constituencies before voting in the first round of the leadership ballot. Labour's landslide has reduced the Parliamentary Conservative party from an army to a partisan force. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky makes painfully clear on page 15, the Conservative Party in the country is itself in a shrunken state. All surviving MPs should take care to listen to their surviving supporters. The 164 Conservatives in the current Parliament must decide: but the party as a whole should have the loudest voice that the present rules allow.

The candidate who has become most identified with the need for party reorganisation is William Hague. In his recognition of the need for internal reform, his ability to communicate his youth and his potential to reach out beyond traditional areas of party support he is a plausible Tory Blair. Endorsing Mr Hague, however, like endorsing Mr Blair at the general election, would be endorsing a position still hazily defined, a politician not yet apprenticed in adversity. We understand the hope of his supporters but hope alone is not enough for a Tory recovery.

There are two other candidates, otherwise unlike, who are as battle-hardened as Mr Hague is not. John Redwood is a brave politician, principled enough to resign in 1995 and contest the leadership and courageous enough since to speak the truth to power. In our view, however, he is not the man to wield it. Even those colleagues who respect his heart and mind do not see in him the lineaments of a leader and certainly do not detect the talents of a healer. Kenneth Clarke is another unlikely binder of the party's wounds. The Shadow Chancellor has enormous natural talents but an unwillingness to learn from experience. Life in the Thatcher Government should have taught him that the centre ground is a quagmire. Mr Clarke's talents are obvious: his ability to map a path out of the mire for the Tory party is not.

The remaining two candidates for the leadership have shown an ability to change the terms of political debate. Both Michael Howard and Peter Lilley used political skill and intellectual power to shift the consensus while in office. Mr Howard exposed *bien-pensant* assumptions about crime, held them up to scrutiny and saw many of them fragment. Caricatured as an extremist, he smiled the ritual calls for the rope at Tory party conferences more effectively than any of his liberal predecessors. For that and other achievements he deserves applause — and has often won it from us — but not the highest in his party.

Peter Lilley's task at Social Security was every bit as tough as Michael Howard's at the Home Office. Like Mr Howard, he inherited a remorselessly rising trend — of spending not crime — and brought it under control. He did more than that, however. Mr Lilley showed a farsighted strategic sense of the need to reform welfare and the way that it should be done. He did so without securing the public vilification endured by Mr Howard, a sign not so much of self-effacement as sure-footedness. He influenced his political opponents as well as his friends. He won arguments even when he was not scoring points.

Mr Lilley does not possess the charisma of Baroness Thatcher: but then neither did she when she became Tory leader and neither does anyone else in this contest. He is not a grand master of the electronic media. But his performances have much improved and will improve further. His instincts are the soundest and the surest in this field. He is rigorously sceptical about the current European project but never narrowly strident. He believes in freedom, for markets, nations and individuals. He appreciates the complementary traditions within the Tory party and wants to make use of them all. Most of all he exemplifies the best of those traditions, the love of liberty. For that he has our support; on that he should be judged this weekend of decision.

FLYNN'S FLYTRAP

Britain faces the cost of signing the social chapter

The first rule of grand strategy is to assess the enemy not just by its intentions, but by its capacity to wage war. The maxim holds equally for dealings with Britain's friends in the European Union. In deciding to end Britain's opt-out from the European social chapter, Tony Blair gave that rule a lower priority than political expediency at home. He has been ambushed for it almost immediately, in the very week that he and Gordon Brown set out to sell their EU plan for jobs based on more flexible labour markets.

The EU directive proposed by Paddy Flynn, the EU Social Affairs Commissioner, is the antithesis of flexibility. It would compel businesses with as few as 50 workers to set up consultation committees for employees. If these companies then made employees redundant or closed factories without consulting the workforce in advance, the decisions would be declared illegal and they could be heavily fined.

Mr Flynn has sprung this trap so rapidly that it must have been ready waiting for the British fly to come within range. The TUC in its unison is delighted. The Government, which is not, may have to comply. Since almost all other EU countries have such legislation already, they will welcome it as a means of reducing Britain's "unfair" competitive advantages. Britain is unlikely to prevent itself being heavily outvoted.

This is not what Mr Blair led business to expect. In Labour's business manifesto, he insisted that far from doing anything to weaken British competitiveness, Labour would carry the British model to the heart of Europe. Yes, Labour would sign the social chapter, but business should lose no sleep over that since "there is no appetite among other EU governments for significant new

labour market legislation". Buried in that phrase was a half-admission that should the appetite revive, the EU could introduce costly and anti-competitive laws. But Mr Blair dismissed that fear with the promise that he would reject any extension of qualified majority voting in social policy. But items introduced under the cover of "working conditions" and "information and consultation of workers" are already subject only to majority decision.

Yesterday in Sweden, in the bosom of Europe's euphoric Socialist parties, Mr Flynn bravely extolled the virtues of competition, listing the high economic costs of "rigidity, unnecessary regulation and old-style intervention". Mr Brown says that for Britain to accept social chapter legislation, it must meet three tests: it must increase productivity and job opportunities and actually increase labour market flexibility. But that was never the purpose of the social chapter; its goal is "social protection" — which, for a majority of governments, means curbing the freedoms of company managements.

If curtailed, Britain could mount a legal challenge to this destructive scheme, citing the social chapter provision that EU directives "shall avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings". Mere mortals might think that the caveat fits this directive to a tee, but whether the European Court of Justice would agree is in the lap of the gods — as the previous Government repeatedly found when it tried such defensive tactics. Mr Blair's boast was that new Britain had said goodbye to all that. If he had not signed the social chapter, it might have been a longer honeymoon.

DNA IN THE DIG

New technologies are telling us with certainty whence we came

The decipherment of the genetic code, one of the great scientific triumphs of the 1960s, has opened many doors. But none, surely, has provided a more enticing or unexpected prospect than the use of genetic information in archaeology and anthropology. Today comes news that DNA analysis is to be used to try to solve one of the mysteries of the Mayan dynasties that ruled large parts of pre-Columbian America. If so, then the language of the genes will have helped us to understand a society whose own hieroglyphic language remained until recently as obscure as the mechanisms of heredity.

DNA serves the archaeologist well because it is both an identifier and a measure of the passage of time. When the skeletons of a family found buried in a pit in Russia were analysed, it was to establish that the mitochondrial DNA they carried matched those of descendants of the Romanov dynasty. The match proved beyond a reasonable doubt that indeed the remains of Tsar Nicholas and most of his family had been found.

But DNA can also serve as a clock, its slow mutation rate measuring the passage of the millennia. Mitochondrial DNA — the type that is found in the organs within cells that provide energy — is passed down unchanged from mothers to children. The only changes are accidental mutations, which occur at a known rate. The study of mitochondrial

DNA has enabled scientists from Oxford to conclude that 85 per cent of Europeans had a common ancestor in the Ice Age. In Mexico, the aims are simpler: archaeologists simply want to know whether the "Red Queen", a royal personage whose tomb was discovered in 1994, was related to King Pacal, a 7th-century ruler of the Mayan civilisation in Palenque. By opening Pacal's tomb for the first time since it was discovered in 1952, it may be possible to match his DNA with that of the Red Queen, and establish something new about the rules of descent that governed the Mayan throne.

Can archaeologists throw away their trowels and rely in future on genetic analysis? Certainly not, for archaeology today rests on a broad base of scientific disciplines undreamt of by Heinrich Schliemann when first he went in search of Troy. Radioisotopes and tree-rings can provide reliable dates, while geophysical techniques can reveal ancient structures beneath the ground without even deploying a spade. Each new technique adds cumulatively to the assurance with which archaeologists can state their conclusions, but none is paramount. Together they have given archaeology what no historical discipline has previously enjoyed: the certainty of knowledge based on science. As a result, we all know much better whence we came.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. CAVE
(General practitioner),
Stanford House,
Priors Hill Road, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.
May 28.

Timetable the key to referendum Bill

From the Director of the Constitution Unit

Sir, Your recent leaders (May 22 and June 4) have argued against guillotining the Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill and against holding pre-legislative referendums. You are mistaken on both counts.

There is a strong case for timetable all Bills, and not merely constitutional Bills. As was recommended by the Hansard Society Commission on the Legislative Process, reporting in 1993, timetabling should be used to ensure both more effective scrutiny and more efficient use of parliamentary time.

As for pre-legislative referendums, it may be sensible to ascertain public opinion before embarking on a major constitutional change. Take the case of Wales, which in the 1979 referendum rejected the assembly proposed in the Wales Act 1978 by four to one. This was after two devolution Bills had taken up much of two parliamentary sessions.

How much parliamentary time and political energy might have been saved if the Welsh people had been invited to express their view before introduction of the legislation rather than after? In the light of that experience it seems only prudent to ascertain the people's view beforehand; but it must be, as you say, on the basis of a detailed and comprehensive White Paper.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HAZELL,
Director,
The Constitution Unit,
4 Tavistock Place, WC1.

From Mr Martin Fotheringham

Sir, As another Scot living and working in London, I agree with Mr Ewan Phillips (letter, May 28) that Scots resident outside Scotland should not be denied the opportunity to vote in the forthcoming referendum.

There is a certain irony in his observation that the captain of the Scottish football team will not have a say in Scotland's future. Gary McAllister missed a penalty for Scotland against England and cannot vote. Sixty seconds later Paul Gascoigne scored a goal playing for England against Scotland and will be allowed to vote.

It is also interesting to note that Ian McGeechan, who is currently working with the cream of British rugby talent to create a side capable of beating South Africa, the world champions, is another Scot who will not be allowed to vote. I believe we should follow his example and concentrate on uniting Britain into a country of world champions rather than wasting time on futile local government issues.

Yours etc,
MARTIN FOTHERINGHAM,
10 Cardigan Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

Sport letters, page 47

Jobs at risk

From Sir John Hoskyns,
Chairman of the Burton Group

Sir, Professor George Bain, head of the Low Pay Commission, was quoted (report, June 3) on the possible effects of a minimum wage.

I would be surprised if there were not some job losses, but the question is whether those jobs would be better lost anyway.

This casual remark reveals the disturbing cast of mind of even the most intelligent people, when they seek to impose, by administrative process, what should in reality be naturally occurring economic outcomes.

Who is to determine which particular jobs should be "lost"? Who is intended to benefit? What appeal process would be available to those doing the jobs in question? How will they be compensated?

Professor Bain is well placed and well qualified to prevent such sloppy — and authoritarian — thinking, not to encourage it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOSKYNNS,
Chairman,
The Burton Group, plc,
10 Great Castle Street, WI.

Need for a child

From Dr William Cave

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Sexual politics of procreation", May 28) talks of the "misery of infertility" and of easing "the path to happiness for miserable parents". I am one half of an infertile couple and am deliriously happy in my marriage.

Too often the driving principles behind assisted pregnancy seem to be a child at any cost, the desires of the prospective parents must be fulfilled, and the end result justifies the means, no matter how bizarre.

Childlessness is not some dark pit, indeed it may even be viewed by some as liberating, and children are an addition to one's life, not the reason for it.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. CAVE
(General practitioner),
Stanford House,
Priors Hill Road, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.
May 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Defining the role of a women's unit

From the Special Adviser to the Minister for Women

Sir, Your profile of me today could possibly have given the impression that I think it is now laughable to demand that men should do half of the household.

On the contrary: sharing domestic labour is no less important today than it was in the 1970s. It seems less outrageous because the idea is much more commonplace. Indeed it is widely assumed that where men and women both work they should share domestic labour. The trouble is, they don't — women still do almost all of it.

What we need is much more family-friendly working conditions so that men and women can combine paid employment and parenting on an equal footing. The fight goes on.

Yours sincerely,
ANNA COOTE,
Institute for Public Policy Research,
30-32 Southampton Street, WC2.
June 5.

From the Representative for England to the European Women's Lobby

Sir, It is good news that Harriet Harman, the new Minister for Women, has established a high-powered special committee to monitor

all policy development for its impact on both women and men, to be supported by a women's unit (report, "Harman says women will have greater say on policy", June 4; also report, June 5).

I very much hope minister and unit will have all the resources they need and the widest possible brief.

As Secretary of State for Social Security, Ms Harman also heads one of the largest departments of the Civil Service, so she has a great opportunity to set an example — by creating a climate in which both men and women are encouraged to achieve a balance between work and home life through putting into effect flexible, family-friendly policies and avoiding the dreaded long-hours culture.

Above all, we need our head of state and our Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when they are in Amsterdam in a few days, to sign up to a new treaty that includes an article making the achievement of equality between women and men fundamental to the "New Europe".

Yours sincerely,
ANNETTE LAWSON,
National Alliance of Women's Organisations,
PO Box 257, Twickenham TW1 4XG.
June 4.

Labour anger at Camelot payments

From Mr George Guise

Sir, New Labour has made its first mistake of philosophy by interfering in the management payments at Camelot (report and City comment, June 3; letters, May 31). If it believes Camelot is failing to deliver the terms of its franchise, it has not only the right but the duty to act. If not, it should leave well alone until the franchise is reset, when it may reset any of the terms, including, if it were so foolish, abandonment of the profit incentive. We could then have a southern European-style lottery, which wastes most of the punters' money on lax administration by myrids of low-paid bureaucrats.

If shareholders overpay management they waste only their own money and the disequilibrium is ultimately resolved by the market changing the management, the shareholders, or both. However much the Alf Garnets may applaud his action, it is no business whatsoever of any Secretary of State. There is a line in the sand between maintaining efficient delivery of a public service such as a monopoly franchise and trying to meddle in the mechanism by which it is delivered.

Hopefully, this is a one-off aberration which demonstrates the danger of bringing populist instincts from opposition to government. Otherwise, let the Government forget its hope of raising substantial risk capital for public projects from the Private Finance Initiative.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GUISE
(Member, Prime Minister's
Policy Unit, 1986-90),
90 Long Acre, WC2.
June 3.

From Mr Andrew Heffer

Sir, Government indignation at the increases for the Camelot directors is commendable but misplaced. Until

the franchise to operate the lottery is due for renewal Camelot may presumably do what it likes with its profits.

A far more regrettable development, in my view, is the Labour Party's pledge (report, April 24) to use £1 billion of proceeds from the mid-week draw to fund education and the National Health Service. These are worthy of additional expenditure but they are not the "good causes" that the National Lottery was established to support.

The Government is already the principal "lottery winner" since it receives 13 per cent of lottery revenue in tax. At a time when charities are experiencing significant difficulties in fundraising as a result of the lottery, we face the prospect of its using the proportion previously earmarked for good causes to make good any shortfall in the Treasury's accounts.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HEFFER,
6 Bardey Hall Road,
Baddiley Green,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
June 4.

From the Reverend Anthony Luckuck

Sir, The outrage in a teacup over paying the national raffle directors can easily be assuaged: let them instead have payment in kind — say, a weekly handful of scratchcards each, or some free random lottery entries.

Some might feel that would be too much like adding incentive to injury, but it follows common practice, and (sausage for the goose) are not the odds of winning supposed to be quite good?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LUCKUCK,
St John's Vicarage,
261 Oakdale Road,
Carlton, Nottinghamshire.
June 3.

some control — their own homes.

Most of those living in the private rented sector, or who own their own homes, cannot shelter under the umbrella of a benign landlord who may take action against their tenants. Craydon council has recently succeeded in winning a High Court injunction against a private flat owner accused of racially harassing her neighbours over a number of years.

As well as tighter laws and official determination to take action, there is a real need for more imaginative ways of neutralising the racist threat against ethnic minorities.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE MEEHAN,
Chair, London Housing Unit,
Bedford House,
125-133 Camden High Street, NW1.
June 3.

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, Mercator was not a "Dutchman", as your leading article alleges. He was born in Rupelmonde in Flanders, then part of the Spanish Netherlands — a territory broadly corresponding with modern Belgium.

Yours sincerely,
LODE WILLEMS,
Embassy of Belgium,
103 Eason Square, SW1.
May 30.

Business letters, page 31

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

RONNIE LANE

Ronnie Lane, pop singer, songwriter and bassist, died yesterday in Trinidad, Colorado, from multiple sclerosis aged 51. He was born on April 1, 1946.

Until multiple sclerosis put an end to his career in the late 1970s, Ronnie Lane was never far from the heart of British pop. Even when too ill to perform, he remained a popular figure, and the roster of stars who played benefit concerts for him after the onset of his disease — Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Bill Wyman, Stevie Winwood, Jimmy Page — was proof of the esteem and affection in which he was held.

As a founder member of the Small Faces, Lane helped to create one of the great British groups of the 1960s. Formed as the quintessential Mod band in 1965 — all rhythm 'n' blues and mohair suits — they made a typical progress towards the sonic adventures and flowery shirts of late-1960s psychedelia. Through it all — thanks in no small part to Lane's skinny, good-humoured, cockney presence — they retained a quirky charm, a tongue-in-cheek English wit that allowed them to blend their musical sources into a sound uniquely their own. They produced some of the most enduring songs of the period, many of them co-written by Lane.

That easygoing appeal was taken further when the Small Faces turned into the Faces and went big. Fronted by the singer Rod Stewart, their cheerful combination of sloppily laddish behaviour and taut musical precision made them one of the most successful acts of the 1970s. Lane's later career never reached the same heights, though as a solo artist and with his own group, Slim Chance, he continued to produce well-crafted and engaging songs, performed with integrity and style.

Ronnie Lane was born in Plaistow, east London. At 19 he was playing the local pubs in a trio with the drummer Kenney Jones and the organist Jimmy Winston; they were joined in mid-1965 by the singer and guitarist Steve Marriott, who had been performing in musicals such as *Oliver!* from the age of 12, and the Small Faces were born.

British pop was booming. The style-conscious Mod scene offered a thriving market for tightly structured dance music, and with record labels anxious not to miss the next sharp-suited



sensation, the group had no difficulty in securing a recording contract. Within weeks they had their first Top 20 hit, with *Watcha Gonna Do About It*, a finely honed homage to American R & B, in which Lane and the band created a perfect punchy showcase for the impassioned whine of Marriott's voice.

Winston was soon replaced by Ian McLagan, and the group began to build a solid following with an energetic round of live performances. The following year brought further chart success, with *Sha-La-La-La*, *Hey Girl* and *All or Nothing*, the group's only No 1.

A change of label in 1967 heralded a

productive new phase of experiment and creativity. In songs such as *Itchycoo Park* and *Lucy Sunday Afternoon*, and on the chart-topping album *Ogden's Nut Gone Flake* with its circular sleeve modelled on a tobacco tin, they created their own endearingly eccentric brand of psychedelia, chipping to perfection the lazy, slightly fuddled charm of the era.

Marriott's departure, to form Humble Pie with Peter Frampton in 1969, signalled the end of the Small Faces. Lane and his colleagues soon got back together, however, joined by Ronnie Wood and Rod Stewart of the Jeff Beck Group. Their early recordings — albums such as *First Steps*, *Long*

— and *One For the Road*, before disbanding the group altogether in 1977.

That year, which saw Lane recording a critically acclaimed collaboration with Pete Townshend of The Who, also saw the onset of the disease that was to bring his career to a close. He recorded another solo album in 1979, *See Me*, before his condition deteriorated and he was confined to a wheelchair. He continued to perform as and when he could.

Lane, whose considerable earnings

had been consumed by years of high living, found himself in several strained circumstances and struggling to meet medical bills. Famous friends from the Sixties came to his rescue with a series of concerts to benefit both him and the charities researching his condition.

Lane was three times married. He is survived by his third wife, Sue, whom he married in 1989, and by the children of a previous marriage.

Player and A Nod's as *Good as a Wink*, and memorable singles such as *Stay with Me* — were an accurate reflection of their live act: rauous, rugged and not nearly as ramshackle as it seemed.

The raw, distinctive rasp of Stewart's voice soon became the group's main selling point; so much so, that the others began to feel overshadowed. As Stewart's parallel solo career blossomed, the tensions within the Faces became more acute. The down-to-earth Lane, in particular, was quite out of sympathy with Stewart's only half-ironic flirtation with the trappings of glam rock, and he left the group in 1973.

Lane's new group, Slim Chance, which included Benny Gallagher and Graham Lyle, who were later to have a successful act in their own right, had a Top 20 hit in 1974 with *How Come*. It was followed by another, equally lively but slightly less successful single, *The Poacher*, and by a well-received album, *Anymore for Anymore*, on which Lane combined homespun cover-versions with some unpretentious, original songs.

Lane's determination to create an ambitious travelling rock circus, complete with jugglers, fire-eaters and sideshows, and the original Slim Chance, broke up. Lane replaced it with a new line-up and recorded two outstanding albums, *Ronnie Lane's Slim Chance* and *One For the Road*, before disbanding the group altogether in 1977.

That year, which saw Lane recording a critically acclaimed collaboration with Pete Townshend of The Who, also saw the onset of the disease that was to bring his career to a close. He recorded another solo album in 1979, *See Me*, before his condition deteriorated and he was confined to a wheelchair. He continued to perform as and when he could.

Lane, whose considerable earnings had been consumed by years of high living, found himself in several strained circumstances and struggling to meet medical bills. Famous friends from the Sixties came to his rescue with a series of concerts to benefit both him and the charities researching his condition.

Lane was three times married. He is survived by his third wife, Sue, whom he married in 1989, and by the children of a previous marriage.

JOHN EWERS

John Ewers, American ethnologist, died on May 7 aged 87. He was born on July 21, 1909.

JOHN EWERS devoted his life to preserving a culture often sharply at odds with his own traditional American upbringing. An ethnologist and champion of American Indian history, he was considered one of the foremost scholars in the United States in the anthropology of Plains Indians and the history of the West.

His three-and-a-half years living among the tribal elders of the Blackfoot Indian tribe in the 1930s resulted in a groundbreaking study of its culture. It provided first-hand accounts of life before the tribes were affected by white settlers. Scholars today directly credit the spawning of further studies into the cultures of the Blackfoot, Crow and Salish Kootenai tribes to his early research.

John Canfield Ewers was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from both Dartmouth College and Yale University with degrees in anthropology. Working under the direction of anthropologist Clark Wissler, Ewers resolved to devote his life to recording the oral histories of the Plains Indians, particularly of the Blackfeet and their neighbours.

Indeed, his first book, *Plains Indian Painting: A Description of Aboriginal American Art* (1939) actually began as his master's thesis. In 1934 Ewers went to work as a field curator for the National Park Service. He followed this with a term at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Browning, Montana, and it was there that he founded the Museum of the Plains Indian, becoming its first curator in 1941.

After two years as an officer in the US Navy in the Pacific during the Second World War, Ewers returned to the United States, his passion for Indian culture remaining undimmed. The reach of his influence as



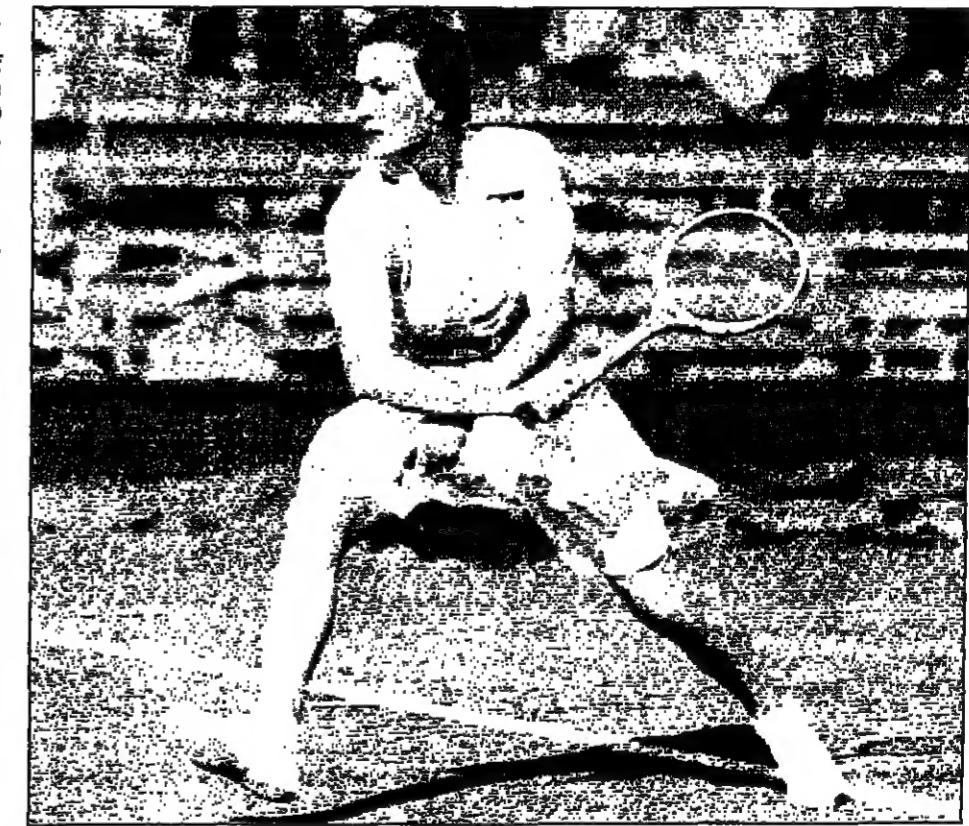
an ethnologist went far beyond the world of academia. The noted Native American fiction writer James Welch, often called the "Indian Hemingway", considered Ewers a crucial influence on his work. In his novel *Fools Crow* (1987), Welch recounted the story of the Marias River Massacre of 1870 when white settlers slaughtered 173 Indians, mostly women and children.

It was a time, he later recalled, when visitors scoffed at the dusty exhibits as "hurtable examples from the horse and buggy days". He quickly went to work upgrading displays, designing education programmes and managing the insulation of exhibits, from among the Smithsonian's 10 million specimens. Ethnographers to him attributed the success of his work to Ewers's ability to "see the whole picture".

Although highly regarded for his work at the Smithsonian, Ewers's books on Native American culture brought him to national attention. His sensitivity to, and dissection of, Native American life was considered to be groundbreaking in the field of anthropology. He wrote, among other things, *The Horse in Blackfoot Indian Culture* (1955), *The Blackfeet: Raiders on the Northwestern Plains* (1958) and *Indian Art in Pipestone* (1979).

Ewers continued to be very active professionally, conducting research, publishing, speaking and attending conferences until early this year. His wife, Margaret Dumville Ewers, died in 1988, after 53 years of marriage. He is survived by two daughters.

HELEN JACOBS



Helen Jacobs, American tennis player, died on June 2 aged 88. She was born on August 6, 1908.

"NOT for many a day," *The Times* reported, "has Wimbledon heard a warmer cheer than that which greeted Miss H. Jacobs ... as, at long last, she made her bow on the Centre Court as Lady Champion." It was persistence as much as talent that had endeared Jacobs to the crowd on that overcast Saturday in 1936; this was her fifth final in eight years. And it was persistence that secured her eventual victory over Hilde Krahwinkel Sperling of Denmark in a hard-fought match lasting an hour and forty minutes. "There has seldom been a final match that looked so even before it was begun and turned out to be perhaps closer than anyone had expected," *The Times* correspondent thought. "Towards the end, it

was not so much a matter of strokes — 30, 40 or even 50 to the rally — as of the dogged will to win of each player."

Success at Wimbledon was the high point of a career that had already seen Jacobs take the US national title four years running, from 1932 to 1935. In 1936 she was ranked No 1 in the world. But it is not as a champion that she will chiefly be remembered. It was her misfortune that her playing days coincided with those of another, more formidable American woman, Helen Wills Moody, and in the widely publicised rivalry between "the two Helens", it was Jacobs who almost invariably came off worse.

Helen Hull Jacobs was born in Globe, Arizona, and grew up in San Francisco. She and Helen Wills lived in the same salubrious suburb, went to the same school and were members of the same tennis club in Berkeley, where they even

shared a coach, William C. ("Pop") Fuller. In temperament, however, the two were very different. Jacobs was genial, energetic and tenacious; Wills, three years her senior, was aloof, determined and icily assured. Relations between them were always cool, though never, each insisting, as cool as the press was fond of suggesting. The evergreen Jacobs became known as "Little Helen", "Helen Two" or "Helen the Second"; the indomitable Wills was "Helen the First", "Big Helen", "Miss Poker Face".

"To play Helen Wills was to play a machine," Jacobs said; her demeanour on court was stony, her silence unrelenting. The players first met in a practice match in 1923, a tryout for Jacobs who lost 6-0, 6-0 in the space of twenty minutes. "Thus," she wryly observed, "was I introduced to the sort of tennis that wins national championships."

The first such championship encounter for the two Helens came five years later at Forest Hills; Wills won 6-2, 6-1. The next year, Wills was invited by the United States Lawn Tennis Association to play a series of internationals in Europe with a partner of her choosing. Jacobs, having taken advice from Suzanne Lenglen, the great French champion of the 1920s, was determined to go to the net as often as possible; there was no point standing on the baseline swapping drives with a player of Wills's power and precision.

The tactic worked, and Jacobs took a fiercely contested first set 6-6; it was the first set she had ever won against Wills, and the first Wills had lost to anyone in some six years. Wills came back to win the second 6-3. Then, in the third, when Jacobs was leading 3-0, Wills suddenly complained of injury and announced that she would have to withdraw. It gave Jacobs the match by default, but it somewhat soured her victory.

"There is no doubt," Jacobs drily remarked in a book she later wrote, "that Helen, for her own sake, would have been wiser if she had remained on the court for the twelve points necessary for me to end the match in the third set." As it was, Wills then announced her determination to play as scheduled in the final of the ladies' doubles, until persuaded by officials and her partner that this was unlikely to find favour with the crowd. She never played at Forest Hills again.

Jacobs always denied that she bore a grudge, but the Forest Hills incident was widely taken as evidence of hostility between the two women, and this coloured the public's view of their subsequent encounter in the Wimbledon Ladies' final of 1935, before a capacity Centre Court crowd. Wills, who herself launched a surprising run in the second set, won the match 6-3, 6-7, 6-4. Jacobs had had match point at 5-3. Jacobs suggested suggestions that Wills had been excessively jubilant in victory, or that she herself had been in defeat.

The two great rivals had what turned out to be their last major competitive encounter at Wimbledon in 1938, with Wills the victor once again. It was a thoroughly one-sided affair. Jacobs, who had injured her Achilles tendon in a quarter-final match against

Jadwiga Jedrzejowska, further damaged it in leaping to meet a cross-court return in the fifth game of the first set of the final. Mindful of Forest Hills, perhaps, she played on.

Jacobs eventually retired from tennis in 1947, having won nine Grand Slam titles (and a triple crown of singles, doubles and mixed doubles at the 1934 United States Nationals). She spent 12 years in the world top ten from 1928, and earned her place in Wimbledon history not just as a well-liked winner and runner-up, or that she was popularised as "masculine" shorts on court ("It seemed the sensible thing to do," she said).

During the Second World War she served in US naval intelligence, and she re-enlisted in the Navy in 1949, eventually serving more than 11 years in all, and reaching the rank of commander, one of only five women to have done so at the time.

She later worked as the business partner of the London society photographer Dorothy Wilding, and was also a farmer, dog-breed and sportswear designer. She was a prolific writer whose 19 books included volumes of autobiography, tennis coaching guides, appreciations of great women athletes, stories for schoolgirls and novels set in the world of tennis.

She never married.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

need holidays, so do their families. Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.

Donations urgently needed by The British Kidney Patient Association, Bordon, Hants, GU5 9JZ. Regd. Charity No 27028

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878

OR

0171-681 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

Atlanta 01 655 0165 USA

Australia 01 71 726 2201 AITA

Canada 01 71 726 2201

France 01 71 726 2201

Germany 01 71 726 2201

Italy 01 71 726 2201

Ireland 01 71 726 2201

Japan 01 71 726 2201

Malta 01 71 726 2201

New Zealand 01 71 726 2201

UK 01 71 726 2201

USA 01 71 726 2201

West Indies 01 71 726 2201

Worldwide 01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

01 71 726 2201

NEWS

Tory membership falls by half

■ The state of the Tory party at the grass roots is even worse than suspected, according to an exclusive survey for *The Times* showing that membership has fallen by nearly a half in the past five years.

Tory membership is now a maximum of 350,000 to 400,000, and possibly very much less. This is the first time that the Tories have had fewer members than Labour. Page 1

'Mad sheep' fears prompt slaughter

■ The Government is to extend "mad cow" controls to sheep because of fears that they may also have become infected with the fatal brain disease, and will order the compulsory slaughter of all sheep suspected of having scrapie. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said he was acting on scientific advice that BSE might be disguised as scrapie. Page 1

Lottery talks

Camelot was locked in talks with the Government in a last-minute attempt to break the impasse over "fat cat" pay. Page 1

Blair warning

Tony Blair will today give a stark warning to the European Left to "modernise or die", telling them that unless they reform their policies as new Labour did in Britain they will destroy themselves and Europe. Page 2

Driver 'murdered'

A pensioner collapsed and died as he fought to stop a thief hijacking his Lada car after getting lost in the back streets of Leeds, a court was told. Page 3

Nurses' hope

Lawyers for the two British nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia produced "dramatic new evidence" which may presage rapid agreement on European policy. Page 17

Vacant possessions

The Government has so many empty offices around the country they could create a new development one and a half times the size of Canary Wharf. Page 8

Hospital closures

Consultants say they are ready to mastermind the closure of some smaller hospitals, but only if they are put in charge of the re-organisation and market forces play no part. Page 10

German offers thanks in vintage style

■ Maxim's, the Paris restaurant, has auctioned 8,000 of its 100,000 bottles of great vintage wines that have become too dear for diners. A case of 1945 Château Mouton-Rothschild Pauillac was bought for Fr52,000 (£56,000) by a German as an 85th birthday gift to a US soldier who liberated his village in 1945. The sale made more than Fr9 million in total. Page 17



Nadine Thompson of the Royal Academy with a model of the Tyne Millennium Bridge, on which work is due to start in Gateshead next year. It is among 100 architectural drawings and models included in the academy's 229th summer show

BUSINESS

Railtrack

Under fire for lack of investment in the rail network, Railtrack announced that its annual pre-tax profits had leapt 27 per cent to £346 million. Pages 2, 27

Economy: The market is bracing itself for a rise in interest rates today, despite new retail sales figures which showed high street growth slowing. Page 27

Nationwide: Dissident members of the Nationwide Building Society launched a board election campaign that could spell the beginning of the end for mutual building societies. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 19.1 points to close at 4,576.2. Sterling rose from 99.6 to 99.7 after a rise from \$1.6284 to \$1.6306 and from DM2.8158 to DM2.8195. Page 30

Leisure: John Woodcock says that he has spent no happier morning at a match than yesterday since Australia lost their last eight wickets for 36 at Melbourne on the 1954-55 tour. Page 50

SPORT

Tennis

Martina Hingis reached her first French Open final with a three-set victory over Monica Seles. Page 47

Rugby union: Nigel Redman will replace Doddie Weir on the British Isles tour of South Africa. The management is demanding action against the player who caused Weir's injury. Page 42

Football: The English Sports Council, FA Premier League and Football Association are to set up a £55 million fund for ground improvements at smaller clubs. Page 46

Cricket: John Woodcock says that he has spent no happier morning at a match than yesterday since Australia lost their last eight wickets for 36 at Melbourne on the 1954-55 tour. Page 50

On show: The architect Sandy Wilson has amassed a remarkable collection of figurative works by contemporary artists, some of which are on show in Chichester. Page 38

ARTS

Season's greetings

The first season at the reconstructed Globe Theatre finally gets under way with *The Winter's Tale*. Benedict Nightingale was there. Page 35

Teen heroes: Prized with the certainties of youth, Oklahoma brothers Isaac, Taylor and Zachary Hanson — aged 16, 14 and 11 — are the latest pop sensation. Page 36

Dark prince: Jeff Buckley, son of Tim Buckley and well on his own way to rock legend status, is missing, presumed drowned. Caitlin Moran mourns his loss. Page 37

On show: The architect Sandy Wilson has amassed a remarkable collection of figurative works by contemporary artists, some of which are on show in Chichester. Page 38

FEATURES

School for stress

"Far from being the slackers portrayed by the media, children today are expected to work harder than their parents ever did." A parent wonders whether too much pressure is being put on today's students. Page 20

Long game: It dawned on Peter Lilley before the election, he now says, how disliked the Tories had become. Indeed, ever since John Redwood's leadership challenge, he has been quietly intending to stand for the leadership. Mr Lilley talks to Valerie Grove. Page 21

EDUCATION

Low marks: When the General National Vocational Qualification started in 1992, it was thought the search for an alternative to academic qualifications was over. But students feel let down. Page 41

Learning curve: At 73, Ida Staples is believed to be the oldest person to have appeared on *University Challenge*. Page 41

OBITUARIES

THE PAPERS

Streamlined, feminised and a priority morally unassassable: the composition of the Government formed by Lionel Jospin sticks to the promises made by its leader. M Jospin is applying the recommendations of his presidential campaign and thankfully has broken with the bad habits of the Socialists under François Mitterrand's two seven-year terms. *Le Monde*

LETTERS

JOHN LLOYD

Baroness Thatcher is a woman drawn to power. She can be flattened and pleased by gallantry, and Mr Blair has been courteous and charming to a fault. Page 22

MATTHEW PARRIS

The Tories do not need a better machine or more members. They need more voters. If the party wishes to enliven its grass roots, it should get itself a good chairman as Chairman. If it wants to win elections, it should get a leader whose message is popular and whose appeal is direct to the nation. Page 22

JOHN LLOYD

Baroness Thatcher is a woman drawn to power. She can be flattened and pleased by gallantry, and Mr Blair has been courteous and charming to a fault. Page 22

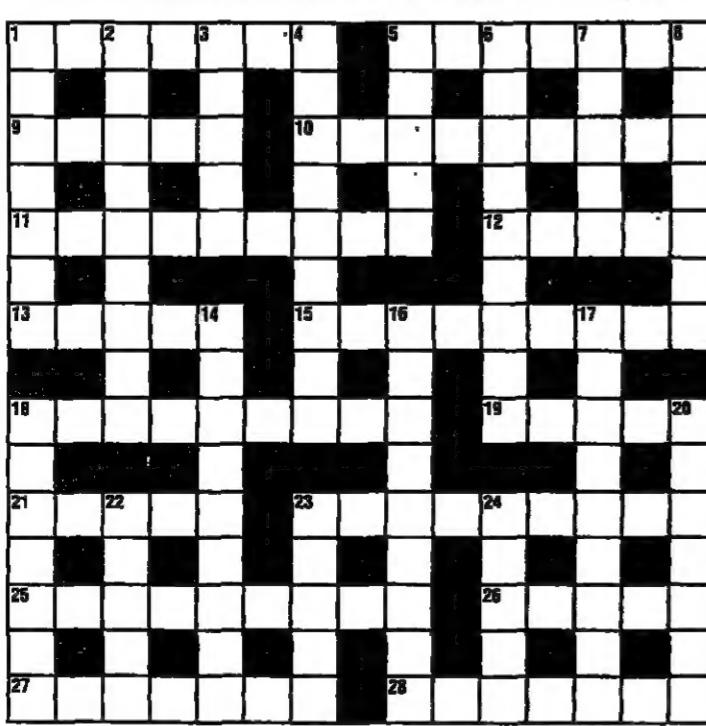
OBITUARIES**RONNIE LANE**

Ronnie Lane, rock musician; Helen Jacobs, tennis player; John Evers, ethologist. Page 25

OBITUARIES**HELEN JACOBS**

Timetable for referendum Bill; new women's unit; "cowardice" and stress in war; Camelot payments; racial harassment; school worship; Q in Bond films; dimensions of Noah's Ark. Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,499



AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910

UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410

Inside M25 0336 401 746

UK Motorways 0336 401 747

Commercial Europe 0336 401 910

Channel crossing 0336 401 388

Hoarding to Headrow & Garroway 0336 407 505

Weather by Fax

0336 401 1516

0336 415 3233

Motoring

0336 401 985

European fuel costs 0336 401 986

From Home 0336 401 987

Report information 0336 401 982

Overseas 0336 401 983

Le Shred 0336 401 984

Merits Marine 0336 401 985

Mobile features 0336 401 986

World City Weather

153 destinations world wide

6 day forecast

0336 415 1216

0336 415 3233

AA car reports by fax

0336 416 299

Data from your AA Journals, you only have to set up to pull receive mode

Automobile Association Data-Reporting Ltd, British Motorway Road Services 0344 811 1111

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Farnborough, 27.1; BFI: lowest day max Far East, Shearwater 17.4; highest rainfall: Camborne, Cornwall 1.94; highest sunsh: Cromer, Norfolk 13.1hr

NEWSPIRERS

Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5pm. b=bright, c=cloudy, d=dark, ds=dark storm, du=drizzle, f=fog, lg=log g=gale, n=hot

Term: sun=shower, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, w=wind, x=wind, y=wind, z=wind

Sun Rain Mon

Sun Rain Mon